

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE FALSE STANDARD.

MANY persons, desirous of commencing an aggressive movement upon the establishment, dismayed by the backward spirit evinced by the leading dissenters of the metropolis, express their fears that the proposed convention, if persisted in, must prove a failure, and, in the issue, do more harm than good. Under present circumstances, it is contended, the scheme would serve only to expose our weakness. It matters not, they argue, to tell the world that you aim at no such thing as a demonstration of strength. The world will not heed you, but will persist in believing that such was your object, and that you have suffered disappointment. Even should the number of delegates assembled present an imposing aspect, the absence from their midst of all our known and influential men, will suffice to deprive the convention of all moral weight. It is of the last importance that we show a united front. Any appearance of division amongst ourselves will be fatal to our success—and it were better to attempt nothing which would reveal our internal differences.

We, too, are anxious for union—let none imagine that we undervalue its importance. We are willing to sacrifice much for its attainment—but as union is merely a means to an end, we are not willing to sacrifice the end to the means. The parties here, and elsewhere, who are opposed to a convention, are opposed to any aggressive movement whatever. They would not object to a separation of church and state as a godsend—but as a consummation to be wrought out by self-sacrifice, they have no taste for it. The crown of victory which surmounts the goal they would be willing enough to wear—but it does not appear to them worth the labour and the anxiety of running for. If it would come to them, they would not refuse it—as they must go to it, they would rather stand excused. Their piety takes a shape of grotesqueness. They have an eye to Providence, not with a view to serve, but to be served—not to learn their duty, but to take out an indulgence. Now, whatever we may think of the value of union, union in indolence strikes us as scarcely worth the seeking. A movement cumbered with the patronage of such men, could be nothing but a pretence. Rottenness would be in the very heart of it. Strong it could never become—and as to its ultimate success, no intelligent man could look for it. Let those, therefore, who wish the enfranchisement of Christianity from political bondage and degradation, settle their choice between two things—union with inaction, or active effort without union. Both they are precluded from having by the temper prevailing in the high places of dissent.

The true standard whereby to measure the value of union, is the end to be gained by it, or the evil to be dreaded from the absence of it. Should second and third-rate men, as they are termed with much self-complacency, attempt aught independently of the leaders of dissent, it would do infinite harm, it is said, by uncovering to every eye our weakness and our divisions. Harm to what? Harm of what nature? That it would derogate from the reputation the nonconforming body has recently established for political strength, we cannot take it upon us to deny. That statesmen would look upon us without fear, and, haply, with profound contempt, is not unlikely. The terror of our name—if, indeed, it have any—a convention, called under present circumstances, might very probably dissipate as a phantom. Dissenters would be regarded as less important than now they are held to be. Well! and what then? Is the importance of dissenters our object? nay, except in so far as it is the radiation of their sincerity and sterling virtue, is it an object worthy of pursuit? Have we nothing better to look after than the reputation of our body? Are the fears or the smiles of statesmen—is their contempt for, or their misapprehension of, us so paramount a matter? What if we should not stand so well with the world after a convention as we did before it, is that an evil so greatly to be dreaded, that positive inaction is to be preferred? For our own part, we are desirous not of serving the interests of this body, or of preserving the name of that, but of removing a mighty hindrance to the progress of revealed truth. And if truth be our aim—if we enlist in her service—if we fight under her banners—if her advancement

be our motive, and constitute our reward, we should say, that the evil of the disunion threatened must be gauged solely and exclusively by its effect in this direction.

Is it not a new and somewhat suspicious doctrine, that the weak beginnings, the first and immature puttings forth of sincerity in united effort, inflict an injury upon truth, because calculated to expose and condemn an existing, and perhaps a superior, amount of practical indifference? Because three men only, out of three hundred, hold themselves in readiness to assert, to proclaim, to vindicate, to act upon, a principle admitted by all, will the avowed union of these three to accomplish their object become positively detrimental to it so long as the rest decline to join them? We wonder whereabouts this world of ours had now been, had this maxim universally prevailed. Why, nothing great, that we are aware of, ever began with the consent of the respectable and influential portions of society. Pleased with their own position, they never, as a class, manifest earnest desire for a change. Every movement which has left a permanent impress upon the public mind, was originated by men till then unheard of, and nursed in childhood by a few obscure and nameless individuals. The time for the leading men to join it is, when it has, by the toil of others, become important enough to add something to their fame. Doubtless, in as far as their reputation is concerned, the first feeble exercises of zeal in other men, does more harm than good. But if the end contemplated be truth, the union to proclaim it of a dozen men whose hearts are in their work, is a positive advantage—a gain so far upon universal apathy—a twinkling light in a dark firmament—a spark of fire where all else is cold as the grave. Better a little of the right sort than all of the wrong. One glowing heart, one energetic mind, one determined will, upon a question admitted to be important to the well-being of man, is certainly an improvement upon total stagnation. Twenty are to be preferred to one; and the combination of those twenty is to be desired rather than their continued separation. Truth gains in proportion as its votaries come together for its sake. It is a mistake to suppose that we can better serve it by falsehood. If we are not united, our not being so, rather than our not seeming so, is the evil to be deplored. If we are really weak, we may gain something by a successful pretence to strength; but the truth about which we profess to be concerned does not gain by our lie, but loses.

Should, then, a convention show that there are but few earnest dissenters, the fact itself is to be deplored, not the public knowledge of it. Nay, if the case is so, far better is it that it should be everywhere known, than that it should be concealed by inaction. False pretences may else prove the ruin of our cause. Let us gather up such zeal as there is, and bring it into thorough union. What, though foes deride, and pretended friends stand haughtily aloof? If it were our pleasure to please them, we should not set about this work at all. But with a goodly number there is higher game in view. Let them forward, then, in the name of all that is sound-hearted; and if, which they do not intend, their alacrity casts disagreeable reflections upon other men's indifference, let them solace themselves in the conclusion that the indifference, and not the alacrity, deserves the blame. The opaque body, and not the light which shines upon it, is responsible for the dark shadow which it casts.

FREE CHURCH PERSECUTIONS.

WE hate persecution in every shape—whether directed, as in Edinburgh, against infidel and blasphemous publications, or, as throughout Scotland, against the members of the free church; and although in a note appended last week to the communication of our Scotch correspondent, we expressed ourselves in a strain of *bardinage* upon the doleful outcry set up by our *de facto* voluntary brethren in the north, we must not be supposed to regard with indifference the wrongs inflicted upon them for obedience to their consciences. It becomes wise men, however, to guard against drawing their conclusions from too narrow premises. It is not because persecution is now leveled at the free church that we abhor it. We equally detested, equally denounced it, before that church sprang into existence; and, if we are not now thrown into an ecstasy of rage at the conduct of the residuary

church—if now we cannot find it in our hearts to sympathise unreservedly with those whose complaints are loud and piercing—we are able to give a reason for our comparative calmness.

Had the free church renounced the compulsory principle, we should have felt far more pity for it in its sufferings. Persecution is the legitimate fruit of that principle; and whoever holds it, cuts himself off from a large share of our sympathies. We cannot but remember that, in this particular, the character of the establishment is but what it ever was. They who excluded all dissenters from the Bible board in Scotland—who thrust them out of all parochial offices of instruction—who, in making out a case for church extension, deliberately overlooked, as if they were nothing, the labours of every non-conforming body—who imprisoned Messrs Russell and Tait for non-payment of the ministerial stipends—who, in the very moment of their egress from the Erastian kirk, cast unkind reflections upon voluntaries, and offered incense to the aristocracy of Scotland—they are not entitled to come before the public now, and speak, and sigh, and appeal to common justice, as though persecution were a novelty, and themselves the only class of men possessed of grace enough to withstand it. Men have made sacrifices for the truth long before this present year of eighteen hundred and forty-three. We see no reason why this should be forgotten. The number of good men who at one and the same time have renounced the temporal advantages of state alliance, and have been made to smart under a system of exclusion and degradation, may be greater in this than in any former instance—and thus their self-denial may have an aspect of greater *éclat*. But this should not be allowed to blind our eyes to, or cheat our memory of, the fact, that hundreds of men—may we not say thousands?—have singly, individually, without the hope of renown, nay, with the unequivocal certainty of disgrace, borne the heavy hand of oppression upon them, and retained their principles at the expense of their social peace and their conventional reputation. Now, we confess that our sympathy is, to due measure, given to these noiseless witnesses of the truth—and our indignation is stirred against the injustice which pursued, worried, and branded them, as well as against that which now molests the free church.

It would not be out of place to ask whether, if Cesar would consent to all the claims of the free church, she would not gladly return to an alliance with the civil power? and whether, when re-seated a queen among religious bodies, she would not insist upon her own supremacy? Would she, or would she not, claim to fill every parochial trust with her own members? Would she, or would she not, recognise the labours of dissenters? Would she, or would she not, enforce payment of annual stipends in Edinburgh, and act as the church of Scotland was accustomed to act previously to the disruption? She retains a tenacious hold of the principle which justifies these offences against conscience, social peace, and the reputation of Christianity. Let her renounce that principle, and we can well understand her present complaints. As it is, we can regard her only as eating the fruit of her own tenets. It is not the whip, which she condemns—but the fact that the whip is not in her own hands.

After all, however, we commiserate her vexations, annoyances, and insults. We only trust that she will at last open her eyes to the source whence they all spring. We are sorry to see her suffer, even although she has borne her part in inflicting suffering upon others. May she come out of the fire considerably enlightened—purified from the dross which yet adheres to her! May she learn to honour and to confide in the elastic energy of true Christian willfulness! May she cease to lean upon the arm of aristocracy—cease to cherish hopes in courts, cabinets, legislatures, and kings; and, free in heart as well as in position, may she bear with meekness the trials appointed for her, remembering her former sins ere she separated from the establishment; and unite with hearty vigour with other dissenting bodies to put an end to the system which encourages intolerance!

PRELIMINARY MEETING OF DISSENTERS AT LIVERPOOL.

On Monday evening (Nov. 20), a meeting of above one hundred of the leading dissenters of this town was held in Newington independent chapel. The circular convening the meeting was issued by Dr

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Blackburn, and it intimated that Dr Reed, of London, was desirous of consulting with the friends in Liverpool as to the course dissenters ought to adopt at the present crisis.

Dr RAFFLES was unanimously called to the chair. Dr REED entered into an explanation of the efforts made to resist Sir James Graham's bill, and the position, under Providence, that the dissenting bodies now occupied. He pointed out the importance of more efficient union to resist similar unjust attacks upon their rights. This union was necessary to prevent rashness on the one hand, or indifference on the other. He was anxious to glean the opinions of the country, that proper steps should be taken. He would say, that he thought the union ought to be based upon the principle, that secular ought not to control spiritual things [cheers]. The movements of dissenters ought to be regulated by this high religious principle—the independence of the church of Christ; at the same time great prudence was requisite—any rash or ill-considered movement would be highly prejudicial. He was anxious to collect opinions on this important matter.

The CHAIRMAN said that Dr COX, of Hackney, was present, and he hoped the Dr would favour the meeting with his opinion. The worthy Dr said, that, having been absent from London nearly six weeks, he was not aware of the precise state of opinion there on the matter under discussion; but he would, with pleasure, give his own opinion. He thought the time had come for dissenters to take a bold, prudent, and aggressive position [cheers]. To act upon the defensive alone was not enough. It was well known that an appeal had been made to the metropolitan ministers by a large body of ministers in the midland counties in favour of a movement for the separation of church and state, and that that proposition had been enforced by a portion of the press. On the other hand, some dissenters were opposed to any aggressive movement, and believed the body should act on the defensive. For his own part, he was quite with the movement party in principle [cheers]. He was out-and-out on the question of separation [cheers]; but he had his doubts whether the plan for a convention or conference was the best adapted to further their ends. He thought preliminary steps ought to be taken—a more private plan of action adopted than that springing from a convention. He should like a union for gathering opinion on the subject in a private way—a union that would also be strong for defence; and, he believed, those who projected the anti-state-church convention would be satisfied if they found a union formed, having this object in view—honestly preparing to realise this great end; and he did not think they ought to be satisfied with anything less than they believed to be right. He had reason to believe that, if the parties named were conferred with in a right spirit, that a ground could be found upon which all could unite [cheers].

A desultory conversation took place, after which Dr BLACKBURN moved a resolution to the following effect:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the friends of religious liberty should be firmly united together, and that the Union should recognise the essential difference between things secular and things sacred; and that the natural result of that principle must be that governments have no authority to interfere with the religion of their subjects."

He thought this resolution would suit all parties, even that large body who were now indisposed to take part in an immediate movement of an aggressive nature.

Mr BROWN said that while efforts were made to conciliate those who were not disposed to move, the anti-state-church movement party must not be forgotten. He thought a decided movement for the separation of church and state, would soon embrace all earnest dissenters.

The CHAIRMAN did not think they could discuss that subject.

Mr BROWN thought they were called upon to give their opinions as to what ought to be done, so that Dr Reed could represent the state of feeling to the friends in London [hear, hear].

A Gentleman asked what was meant by the word "manageable," which had been applied to the anti-state-church party?

Dr COX stated that he had merely used the word as it had been used by Dr Reed. He meant that if proof were given of a sincere and hearty movement towards a separation of church and state, the friends in the midland and other places would come in. Such was his impression. They should be conferred with in a proper spirit.

The CHAIRMAN thought all parties could assent to the principle of the resolution, which was put and carried unanimously.

Dr REED wished to know whether, in the event of any society being established in London upon such a principle, it might rely upon Liverpool for pecuniary support? He suggested that dissenters should petition against their own *regium donum*, so that they might be in a position to take high religious ground in all their movements, whether for defences or in protests against the principle of an establishment.

It was moved by Mr ROBERTS that the friends in Liverpool would cordially aid such a movement in London.

The CHAIRMAN (Dr Raffles), wished to know "whether it was meant that the meeting would approve of everything that the society might do."

Mr ROBERTS. "Of course not."

The resolution was then carried; and after thanks were voted to Dr Reed, Dr COX, and the Chairman, the meeting separated.

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The second monthly meeting of the members of this association was held at the King's Head, Poultry, on Tuesday evening last; Stafford Allen, Esq., in

the chair. After the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting, a short report relative to their proceedings during the past month was read from the committee. The report stated that the address and rules of the association had been extensively circulated, having been sent "to the leading journals in town and country, to the periodical press, to most of the dissenting ministers of the metropolis, and to several well known friends of religious freedom." A list of eighteen journals was read, in which the address of the association had been inserted, and in many commended. After the reading of the report, the letter from the Right Hon. the Earl of Radnor, inclosing £20, was read to the meeting. Letters cordially approving of the formation and objects of the association were read, from Apsley Pellatt, Esq., P. A. Taylor, Esq., Roger Lee, Esq., Edward Swaine, Esq., and other well-known friends of religious liberty. Extracts were read from the *Leicester Mercury*, *Bradford Observer*, *Cheltenham Free Press*, *Nottingham Review*, &c., recommending its claims upon the attention of their readers. The remainder of the evening was almost exclusively occupied with the consideration of the bye-laws of the association; after which a resolution (which appears in our advertising columns) was passed, cordially thanking the Earl of Radnor for his handsome donation to its funds. A vote of thanks to the chairman having been passed, the meeting separated.

CHURCH RATES IN THE METROPOLIS.—Opposition to church rates proposed at vestry meetings appears to have been signally unsuccessful in no less than three metropolitan parishes during the past week. In the parish of St Dunstan, Stepney, there were 1,293 votes in favour to repair the church yard, &c., and 987 against it. In the parish of Christchurch, 403 supported the rate, 80 only opposed it. The rate proposed for All Saints, Poplar, was carried by fifty-nine against thirty-two.

CHURCH RATE REFUSED.—At a vestry meeting held in the parish church of Burston, the 16th inst., a church rate of three pence in the pound was proposed by Mr Scales, and seconded by Mr Green; after which an amendment was moved by Mr John Plummer, and seconded by Mr Terry, that the meeting do adjourn to that day twelve months, which amendment was carried by a majority of 2 to 1, thus setting aside the rate altogether.

THE POOR MAN'S CHURCH.—Last Sunday, a tradesman in the city, anxious to pay the last tribute of respect to the remains of his deceased shopman, attended the funeral procession to a certain parish church. It was punctual to the time, but, after waiting three quarters of an hour for the parson, they received information "that, if it was a respectable person, his reverence would come immediately; but if not, they must wait until others came." The tradesman, dissatisfied with this treatment, endeavoured to obtain an interview with the priest, but was prevented because he would not pull off his hat; but he saw through the window that he was standing by a comfortable fire, whilst he kept this poor widow, who was in delicate health, shivering in the cold of this inclement season. Doubtless in this man's vocabulary, rich signifies respectable, and poor disrespective; and yet we are told it is the poor man's church. How much is the public taxed to pay the high priest of the parish in question? Somewhere about £11,000 per annum. He, of course, is very respectable indeed. How unlike a genuine successor of the fishermen of Galilee!—Correspondent.

SUPERSTITION.—The following fact is a melancholy proof of the need of a second reformation in the establishment. In the church of an agricultural parish, within twenty miles of London, there stood, at the dismissal of the congregation a few Sabbaths ago, a poor woman holding a plate. The object was to obtain thirty pence from as many unmarried men, to be exchanged for half-a-crown, also by an unmarried man; the half-a-crown thus obtained to be carried to a silversmith, and made into a ring, to be worn on one of her fingers, for the purpose of curing her of epileptic fits, to which she had been long subject. This piece of incredible folly was gone through with the knowledge and approbation of the clergyman!! "The leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed."

PAST APATHY OF DISSENTERS.—The Central Board of Scottish dissenters have transmitted certain resolutions to various members of parliament, against endowing the Roman catholic priesthood, and among others, of course, to Mr Hume, who has returned the following reply. The letter is addressed to Robert Grieve, Esq., chairman of the Scottish Central Board of Dissenters in Edinburgh:—

"Bryanstone Square, 31st Oct., 1843.

"SIR—I have this day received a copy of resolutions agreed to at a meeting of the Scottish Central Board of Dissenters at Edinburgh, on the 23rd inst., against any endowment of the Roman catholic clergy by the state.

"I agree with the meeting, and desire to state to you, that I have been informed that the plan of the present ministry is not to remove the church establishment from Ireland, as I have urged for more than twenty years in my place in parliament, but to corrupt and enslave the Romish priests, by pensioning them all from public funds.

"There cannot be, and there ought not to be, peace and contentment in Ireland, until the episcopal church establishment is removed from that country, as I consider it one of the most insulting badges of slavery that can be placed upon any country. But it is expected that, by pensions to all the Roman clergy, the government will be able to detach the priests from the agitation which demands equal rights, civil and religious, to Irishmen, as to Englishmen and Scotsmen.

"We have not equal rights in England or Scotland, but in comparison with the state of Ireland, we are much freer than the Irish people.

"We might have seen dissenters and churchmen placed on a much better footing, if dissenters in Great Britain would have united to demand equal religious liberty, and would have taken the proper (and I will add, the only) means that can effect their object. But they have been indifferent to the constitution of the House of Commons, and have thus in many cases joined in supporting the galling yoke which parliament have continued upon dissenters; and it is therefore in a great degree the fault of dissenters themselves, that they are trampled upon by the established clergy of the country, who seem to me determined to re-enact the test and corporation laws, or laws equally degrading and equally repulsive to the principles of dissent.

"I made an effort yearly, for many years, in the house of Commons, beginning in 1820, to obtain the removal of the church establishment from Ireland, but never received the least assistance from dissenters.

"I have on all occasions opposed the grasping acts of the English clergy, in getting from public money the endowment of bishops in the colonies. I have opposed the application of public money to the endowment of chapels of the church of England, thus adding to the load that bears so hard upon dissenters, and acting so very injuriously on the affairs of the country generally; but I have never had the support of the dissenters to resist any of these encroachments. On the contrary, dissenters have supported the advance of small sums from the public revenue, to maintain poor dissenting clergymen in England, a pittance of £1,200 or £1,300 a year, and they have supported the grant of £24,000 to the dissenters in Ireland, by which their clergy are kept in dependence on the state, and the cause of dissenters injured. When, for example, I opposed the grant of £10,300 of public money, on the 5th of July, 1842, to endow clergymen of the church in the Forest of Dean, I stated to the House, and to the country at large, that there were between three and four millions sterling of public property yearly appropriated to the church of England, and that in forty years, from 1800 to 1840 inclusive, there had been applied in addition, from the taxes of the country, £5,678,751 for the established churches—all of which had been added to the debt of the country—and for which we are now, and our descendants will be, taxed to pay the interest.

"Although I divided the House of Commons against the grant of £10,300 for those churches of the Forest of Dean, in a house of 225 members, only 46 voted with me, and 179 against me. The dissenters in the country took no notice of my efforts, nor did they look to the parties who supported that grant.

"A friend of mine at the time informed me, that amongst the 179 who voted for thus increasing the power of the church, he could name eighty-two members whose election had depended mainly upon dissenters; and yet, as far as I have heard, the conduct of these members in that vote, and in many other votes affecting dissenters, will not be noticed at the next general election!

"I will send you the parliamentary report of the proceedings of the House of Commons on the 5th of July, that your board may see what did take place on that occasion.

"The meeting, in the first resolution, have expressed their surprise and alarm, 'that influential members of parliament should have proposed to endow, from the public taxes, the Roman catholic clergy.' But their surprise should cease when I inform you that many of these members owe their election to parliament to dissenters.

"I therefore offer respectfully to the board of dissenters this advice—that if they are sincere in desiring to support and to obtain the rights of dissenters, they will employ themselves forthwith to reform the House of Commons, and take measures honestly and earnestly to give their support only to such candidates as will demand the rights of dissenters, and will do their best to put an end to church domination by church establishments.

"Let the board analyse the votes of the 5th July, 1842, and on other occasions when the rights of conscience and civil rights have been violated; and let the dissenters stand forward as political reformers, as the only means of obtaining, in a constitutional way, the redress which they demand, and which, in this popular and free country (now in name only), they have a right to enjoy.

"Do this yourself, and set the example to your representatives in parliament, to act against monopoly and class legislation, which have been the bane of this country on all occasions. I shall, as long as I have a seat in parliament, be at my post as heretofore, against all monopolies.

I remain, your obedient servant,

"JOSEPH HUME."

JOHN MILTON AND THE LET-ALONE POLICY.—A correspondent sends us the following extract from the preface to the second book of Milton's "Reasons of Church Government urged against Prelates," with the subjoined note:—"Your 'Point of Vision' is at the same time amusing and instructive, entertaining and useful. Perhaps there were never two great questions, interesting two great nations, which could be considered to such superior advantage from the opposite sides. There is, however, another 'point of vision,' from which the present question can be most beneficially examined—that of after life. This was the point in which Milton chose to consider the same question in his time, and his cogitations are full of instruction to the men of the present day. Such stormy subjects were utterly alien to his nature, which was formed for softer studies, in which he engaged with rapture till the voice of duty called him away, and plunged him into that sea of controversial religious politics in which he cheerfully and deliberately sacrificed both his eyes to the welfare of his country. In an age of great men he was the greatest—in a generation when the genus man flourished intellectually, he shone supereminent; and being dead he yet speaketh, in a voice replete with the profoundest instruction, to the men of the present generation. Would that they might listen to his words, and act upon them." The following is the extract:—

"For surely to every good and peaceable man it must in nature needs be a hateful thing to be the displeaser and molester of thousands; much better would it like him, doubtless, to be the messenger of gladness and contentment, which is his chief intended business to all mankind, but that they resist and oppose their own happiness.

"But when God commands to take the trumpet and blow a dolorous or jarring blast, it lies not in man's will what he shall say or what he shall conceal. If he shall

think to be silent, as Jeremiah did, because of the reproach and derision he met with daily, and all his familiar friends watched for his halting, to be revenged on him for speaking the truth, he would be forced to confess as he confessed, ' His word was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary with forbearing, and could not stay.'

" Which might teach these times not suddenly to condemn all things that are sharply spoken, or vehemently written, as proceeding out of stomach virulence and ill-nature; but to consider rather that, if the prelates have leave to say the worst that can be said, or do the worst that can be done, while they strive to keep to themselves, to their great pleasure and commodity, those things which they ought to render up, no man can be justly offended with him that shall endeavour to impart and bestow, without any gain to himself, those sharp and saving words which would be a terror and a torment in him to keep back.

" For me, I have endeavoured to lay up as the best treasure and solace of a good old age, if God vouchsafe it me, the honesty of free speech from my youth, where I shall think it available in so dear a concernment as the church's good. For if I be, whether by disposition or what other cause, too inquisitive or suspicious of myself and mine own doings, who can help it?

" But this I foresee, that should the church be brought under heavy oppression, and God have given me ability the while to reason against that man that should be the author of so foul a deed; or should she, by blessing from above on the industry and courage of faithful men, change this her distracted estate into better days, without the least furtherance or contribution of those few talents which God at that present had lent me; I foresee what stories I should hear within myself, all my life after, of discourse and reproach. Timorous and ungrateful, the church of God is now again at the foot of her insulting enemies, and thou bewailest; what matters it for thee or thy bewailing? When time was, thou couldst not find a syllable of all that thou hast heard or studied to utter in her behalf; yet ease and leisure was given thee for thy retired thoughts, out of the sweat of other men. Thou hast the diligence, the parts, the language of a man, if a vain subject were to be adorned or beautified; but when the cause of God and his church was to be pleaded, for which purpose that tongue was given thee which thou hast, God listened if he could hear thy voice among his zealous servants, but thou wert dumb as a beast. From henceforward be that which thine own brutish silence hath made thee!

" Or else I should have heard, on the other ear, —Slothful and ever to be set light by, the church hath now overcome her late distresses, after the unwearied labours of many of her true servants that stood up in her defence; thou also wouldest take upon thee to share amongst them of their joy, but wherefore thou? Where canst thou show any word or deed of thine which might have hastened her peace? Whatever thou dost now talk, or write, or look, is the alms of other men's active prudence and zeal. Dare not now to say or do anything better than thy former sloth and infamy; or, if thou darest, thou dost impudently to make a thrifty purchase of boldness to thyself out of the painful merits of other men. What before was thy sin is now thy duty, to be abject and worthless.

" These, and such like lessons as these, I know would have been my matin duty and my even song. But now, by this little diligence, mark what a privilege I have gained with good men and saints to claim my right of lamenting the tribulations of the church, if she should suffer, when others, that have ventured nothing for her sake, have not the honour to be admitted mourners; but, if she lift up her drooping head and prosper, among those that have something more than wished her welfare, I have my charter and freehold of rejoicing to me and my King."

" THE PAROCHIAL GAZETTE." —We have received a copy of a new metropolitan publication, under the above title, which professes to give " a compendium of information for the metropolitan parishes, and a monthly digest of parish matters." In their address they say—" While we are primarily the advocates for parishioners at large, we are nevertheless bound to confess, that those who are without the law, or not 'as by law established,' shall have peculiar claims on our attention. We shall, therefore, be opposed to church rates, and we shall endeavour to prevent parishioners from paying them, when conscientiously opposed, either directly, or through indirect channels, as has often been attempted. We shall only oppose church rates from principle, therefore it does not follow that we will omit the guardianship of those who conscientiously differ from us." And in another place—" In the pursuit of that truth which is alone eternally saving, it has become most imperatively the duty of every sincere Christian, to distinguish unequivocally between ' the church of God and Christ,' and ' the church of England,' as by law established; because in the latter case the law of man claims a decision above that of a superior tribunal, namely, ' the law of God in the heart'; and at the same time resolves into temporalities, that government, which, to be perfect, must be spiritual. In these observations we seek not to condemn any man's convictions, but to extend Christian freedom." The publication appears to us to be useful and well-timed.

" THE CIRCULATION OF THE BIBLE." —R. B. Sanderson, Esq., of West Jesmond, presided at a recent public meeting in Clavering Place chapel, Newcastle; when Adam Thomson, D.D., of Coldstream, secretary to the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation, delivered an excellent address in furtherance of the objects of that valuable institution. It was then resolved, on the motion of Mr James Pringle, seconded by R. B. Sanderson, Esq., jun.:—

" That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby cordially given, to Dr Thomson, for the impressive statements he has now furnished on a subject of vital importance; and also for the efficient services which, by a series of able, zealous, and persevering efforts, he has been honoured of God to render to his fellow-men, in having so powerfully aided in supplying enlarged facilities for the more extended circulation of the holy scriptures, in every language and in every land."

Mr George Bell moved a second resolution; which was seconded by Mr James Potts, and unanimously passed, viz.:—

" That this meeting, persuaded that the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation has fairly redeemed its pledge to the public, for furnishing a supply of bibles at the least possible expense, engages to encourage that institution in seeking the advancement of its great object, and appoints as a committee (with power to add to their number), for considering the best means of carrying this measure into effect, the following gentlemen, viz., Messrs James Pringle, D. C. Bowring, W. Campbell, and G. Bell, R. B. Sanderson, Esq., R. B. Sanderson, Esq., jun., Councillor James Finlay, Councillor R. Robinson, and Messrs T. Hogg, J. Douglas, W. S. Pringle, and James Potts."

Thanks were voted to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr D. C. Bowring, seconded by Dr Thomson, and the meeting separated.—*Gateshead Observer.*

LIVERPOOL.—The following frightful statement, as to the spiritual ignorance and woe now existing in Liverpool, was lately made at meeting of the town mission there:—There are 60,000 adults never enter a place of worship, except at a marriage or a funeral; 12,000 adults cannot read; 14,000 families have not a solitary fragment of the word of God; 25,000 go to no school whatever, and that the town missions can employ, with its present inadequate resources, no more than seventeen agents.

EDIFYING SPECTACLE.—Some dispute appears to exist between the Bishop of London and the university of Oxford, which has led to delay in the consecration of one of the new churches of Bethnal Green, which has for some time been completed.

" INSULT" TO THE STATE CHURCH.—Sir Charles Metcalfe's attorney-general appears to have roused much indignation, in the minds of the old tory party of Canada, by styling the united church of Great Britain " the Protestant Episcopal church." This frightful misnomer had been detected in a bill introduced by the Attorney-general, to allow religious bodies of any denomination to hold lands in the colony.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The Free church of Scotland has published the following programme of arrangements for missions to England, the object of which is to raise funds for building places of worship:—

" 1. London, including Oxford and Cambridge, &c. (ten ministers for three or four weeks)—The moderator, Drs Gordon, Buchanan, Henderson, Cunningham; Messrs C. J. Brown, Begg, Wallace of Hawick, Davidson of Aberdeen, and Tweedie.

" 2. West Riding of Yorkshire, Leeds, Halifax, &c. (six ministers for three weeks)—Dr Candlish, Messrs Guthrie, Gray of Perth, Miller of Monifieth, Macnaughtan of Paisley, and Hetherington.

" 3. Bristol and Bath, &c. (four ministers for three weeks)—Dr Paterson of Glasgow, Messrs Roxburgh of Dundee, Macfarlane of Collessie, and Brown of St Bernard's.

" 4. York and Hull, &c. (four ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs Nixon of Montrose, Perrie of Kirkwall, Glass of Musselburgh, M'Millan of Cardross, Dumbar-ton, and Hamilton of London.

" 5. Exeter, Devonport, and Cornwall, &c. (four ministers for four weeks)—Messrs M'Gillivray of Dairsie, Thomson of Yester, Fairbairn of Saultoun, and MacKenzie of Dalbeattie.

" 6. Lincoln, &c. (four ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs Dodds of Garvald, Parker of Leshmahagow, Main of Kilmarnock, and Arnot of Glasgow.

" 7. Birmingham and Shrewsbury, &c. (three ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs Elder, M'Kenzie of Dunblane, and Henry Moncreiff of Kilbride.

" 8. Bedford and Northampton, &c. (four ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs Dodds of Humbie, M'Cosh of Brechin, G. Lewis of Dundee, and Hanna of Skirling.

" 9. Kent, &c. (four ministers for a fortnight)—Dr P. M'Farlan of Greenock, Messrs Cairns of Cupar, Alexander of Kirkaldy, and Ewing of Dundee.

" 10. Norwich and Lynn, &c. (four ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs Sym of Edinburgh, Dowie of Lock-erby, Dr Forbes of Glasgow, and Mr Cowe of Portobello.

" 11. Portsmouth, &c. (three ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs Beith of Stirling, Stewart of Aberdeen, and Bonar of Larbert.

" 12. North Wales (in spring)—Dr M'Kay and Mr M'Kenzie of Dumfries.

" 13. South Wales (in spring)—Messrs Shepherd of Kingussie, and Hector M'Neil of Campbeltown.

" 14. Manchester, &c. (two ministers for a fortnight, for 12th and 19th November)—Messrs Robert Craig of Rothesay, and Patrick Borrowman of Glencairn.

" 15. Nottingham and Derby, &c. (four ministers for a fortnight)—Messrs H. Grey, Smith of Greenock, Chalmers of Dailly, and Mr T. B. Bell of Leswalt.

" 16. Darlington, Newcastle, &c. (four ministers for a month)—Messrs Cupples of Doune, Stevenson of Newton-on-Ayr, Marshall of Dunfermline, and Forrester of Scorbie.

" 17. Isle of Man—Messrs Shanks of Buckie and M'Bryde of Rothesay."

Dr Chalmers has received from a member of the church of England 1,000*l.* for the Free church, being 500*l.* for the building fund, and 500*l.* for the sustentation.

THE FREE CHURCH AT BOLTON.—On Sunday last, Mr Patrick Borrowman, of Glencairn, and Mr Robert Craig, M.A., of Rothesay, the deputation sent by the Free church of Scotland, preached at the following places, and collections were made:—Duke's alley, above £17; Bridge street, £16; Mawdsley street, £10; Town hall, £10; Fletcher street, £9; Baptist chapel, about £5; total, £67. In addition to the above, and in consequence of the schools having been taken from the Free church, and 500 being immediately wanted, Mr H. Ashworth has offered to give £1*s.* to each of the 500 schools, being £25; shilling subscriptions being the plan adopted in raising the amount required. Scotland has guaranteed to raise £50,000 as a building fund for schools.—*Bolton Free Press.*

LORD ROSSMORE AND THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—We understand that a most gratifying letter has been received in Monaghan from Lord Rossmore, regarding the Free church of Scotland. His lordship, in the letter, expressed himself in the warmest

manner as a friend of the Free church, while he states that he has granted a site for one of its churches in the Island of Arran, and given the munificent sum of £500 to aid in the erection of the building.—*Newry Telegraph.*

Correspondence.

THE COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION AND THE NONCONFORMIST.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Although it has been repeatedly stated that the *Nonconformist* and the Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union are perfectly independent, an impression still exists in some quarters that, as they are mutually identified in the general advocacy of the cause, they are in some measure responsible for each other's sentiments. It is desirable that this impression should be removed, and that it be distinctly understood, that the connexion between the Council of the Union and the *Nonconformist*, is limited to the publication, by the latter, of their official intelligence.

The editor's early and able advocacy of the cause entitles it to this preference. But it should be also known, that the Council do not always agree in the sentiments of the *Nonconformist*, and I think it necessary to say that certain remarks in the last number are calculated, in my opinion, to discourage the friends of an equality of political rights, and call for some vindication of the conduct of the Council of the Complete Suffrage Union.

It was not until after deliberate consideration the Council came to the conclusion that the main, if not the only plan, on which they should concentrate their influence during the next session of parliament, was that proposed by William Sharman Crawford, of moving amendments on the supplies until the grievances of the people were heard and redressed. The Council were the more ready to approve and recommend this proposal, as it is one in which all who claim justice for Ireland, or religious or commercial freedom, might cordially unite—and from this object I earnestly hope nothing will divert the attention of our friends.

Having been present at most of the frequent meetings of the executive committee of the Council, I can bear testimony to their firm, faithful, and persevering discharge of their duty.

Their endeavours to lessen the jealousies and remove the prejudices which unhappily prevailed amongst the true friends of political freedom, have been unremitting, and while cheerfully supplying the public press with whatever information was likely to promote this and other desirable ends, it has been very satisfactory and encouraging to them to find a growing disposition amongst the organs of liberal opinions to receive it.

The progress of a great question is not always indicated by the number or excitement of public meetings in its favour, and we are anxious to secure the cordial co-operation of that part of the community, above all others, who take up the subject on Christian principle. They will make no compromise of the rights of the people in the hour of prosperity, which is the time of greatest trial. It is a source of much satisfaction that an increasing number of this class are becoming convinced of the soundness of our principles. These men are as likely to be won by the silent labours of the pen, and by a calm exposure of the grievances of the people within the walls of parliament, as by great public demonstrations, important as these are when judiciously and opportunely resorted to.

Time may or may not develop whether those who are now steadily labouring at the oar, have both judgment and moral courage to embrace the right opportunity of leading their friends forward to more combined and vigorous effort. But whoever may be the instruments in the hand of divine providence for its accomplishment, there are no doubtful indications that the period is not far distant when the rights of the many shall peacefully triumph over the oppressions of the few.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH STURGE.

Birmingham, 11th month, 20th, 1843.

THE DINNER-TABLE INFLUENCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—The apathy of dissenters, and especially of the London ministers, on the subject of the connexion between the church and state, is to me very surprising. It is now some years since Mr Binney said that he believed that the establishment destroyed more souls than it saved; and when you talk to his brethren, you find that they entertain the same opinion, and yet they not only do nothing to rid the earth of this dreadful obstacle in the way of the salvation of souls, but they positively discourage others from making the attempt to remove it. There must be some secret influence at work which we in the country do not understand. They say that this is not the time. But this, you know, is a mere blind—a subterfuge. If an offensive cesspool were in the neighbourhood of my house, and daily spreading poisonous malaria through my family, what should I say if, day after day, my children were dropping into the grave, and when I attempted to remove the nuisance, some neighbour were, with grave countenance, to assure me that that was not the proper time? I am but a simple man, sir, but it appears to my simplicity that it can never be the wrong time to move a poisonous nuisance. Rely upon it, sir, there is some other reason at the bottom. What that is, wiser heads than mine must discover. I have thought (and I will just tell you this thought, and occupy no more of your valuable space), that the reason may be found in circumstances in which the London ministers are placed. They, many of them, are very intimate with wealthy churchmen, and seem, as far as my short observation extends, to be rather proud of this intimacy. Now, sir, human nature, even in dissenting ministers, is a very odd thing; there is no telling the subtle influences that may be brought to bear upon it. Perhaps this intimacy—this interchange of dinner and tea parties—and the occasional appearance of a churchman at a dissenting place of worship, may account for this otherwise unaccountable apathy. Now, sir, just let us put the question in a plain form. Suppose me to be a London dissenting minister: well, my neighbour Jenkins, the rich banker, happens to drop into my chapel: he is pleased with my preaching, and lets me know it. At length he scrapes an acquaintance, and then he asks me to dinner, and sends his carriage to convey me to his house. There I meet with a number of other bankers

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and merchants, and, it may be, a real squire and justice of the peace, but all churchmen. Well, the next day there is a meeting advertised to take steps to sever the church from the state. Now, how is it possible that I can go? It is not possible. I am only a man, and "I dare do all that may become a man—who dares do more is none." Ah, sir, depend upon it that amongst the many influences that warp men from their principles, there are not many stronger than the dining-table influence.

B.

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR—It is, as you well know, no uncommon event in our times for men, who are desirous of knowing and following truth, to investigate the views of others; and, among the views they inspect, the views entertained by the Roman catholics come in for a closer investigation than usual. The extravagant claims which the Puseyites have advanced have produced this effect—an effect pregnant with good and evil. In common with others, the writer has investigated the doctrines of popery, of which he believes Puseyism to be a very close resemblance, and condemned by scripture equally with the original that has been copied. Were not the system of Puseyism, in truth, the system of the prayer book and the canons, Puseyism would be viewed as the image of the beast; but since the prayer book, carried out, is only Puseyism, it is concluded that the system of the common prayer book and of the canons, in connection with the hierarchy of the church of England, is the destructive, but doomed, image of the beast spoken of in Rev. xiii. 15, and Rev. xiv. 9, 10, &c. But there are two points connected with these remarks, in which the writer, in common with others, wants both information, and to be called to consideration.

I. Is the church of England, as above described, the image of the beast? If so, have any writers taken this view—or do any moderns hold this view—should this view be taken—how is the parallel between the church of Rome and the church of England to be drawn, so as, at a glance, to demonstrate their resemblance to any impartial investigator?

The other point on which I would solicit information, and to which I would call attention, is baptism. I have perused the writings of some episcopalians, who have published their sentiments on the church of Rome, and denounced her Antichrist. I find them touch on every point except baptism. I fear their silence arises from the very close resemblance, borne by the daughter to her mother, in this feature of her face. I should, therefore, be greatly obliged if you will allow me to ask—

1. What are the doctrinal views of the Roman catholics on baptism?

2. In what authentic and acknowledged writings of the church of Rome the doctrine of baptismal regeneration, or the removal of original sin by baptism, is contained?

3. Whether there is not a close resemblance between views entertained by Roman catholics and churchmen?

4. Whether any of the church of England writers against popery have denounced the doctrine of the papists on baptism?

5. Whether any can be held as faithful to the scriptures of truth, who refuse to co-operate in the use of means to destroy the moral influence of the church of England, provided she be the image of the beast?

6. Whether it is not a religious duty to do so, seeing if she be the image of the beast, that resemblance of popery, foretold by John, in apocalyptic vision, every command enjoined in the people of God, to come out of Babylon, and to destroy her, is equally binding on us, in relation to the same evils, although modified? In great haste, I am, sir, yours sincerely and respectfully,

OLIGOS.

P.S. If our duty be as above deduced, it is not our duty to abstain from an anti-state-church convention, but our duty to hold one, if that be the best means we can employ.

DAMPERS FOR SMOTHERING THE CONVENTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Several articles in your paper, lately, have opened up the question of persecution; and, with your accustomed wisdom and knowledge, you have explained that such persecution was the necessary result of a state church—that those who come out from it, and earnestly dissent, may look for persecution—and that it has been so ever since the church was chained to the state.

This fact ought to make us, more than ever, both vigilant and earnest to effect the separation of the unholy alliance; and you deserve, as you have, the thanks of every sincere nonconformist for the manner in which you have brought forward the proposition for a convention on this great subject.

I need not tell you that, in this great metropolis, as well as in country towns, the dissenters who best understand the principles, and may, in many cases, be ranked amongst the most pious people, are not what is denominated leaders, but are found, in numerous instances, mourning over the apathy and indifference, if not dishonesty, of those who assume that responsibility.

I have an extensive acquaintance with dissenters in London; and since the appeal made by the ministers of the midland counties to their brethren in the metropolis, I have observed an evident determination, on the part of the latter, to suppress, if it be possible, all attempts to summon such convention; and I know, moreover, that, in this resolution, they stand in direct opposition to the fixed opinions of great numbers—large majorities—of their people.

I am informed, on good authority, that the ministers of London have determined to recommend to the counties, and country towns, to form local associations for the expressed object of separating the church from the state; the members of such societies to centre in a London committee, by which, if the people fall into the trap, the country will be divided. The "leading ministers" will retain their cherished supremacy a little longer, and, as in former efforts of the like kind, the dissenters will be the laughing-stock of the government, and the fitting subjects of that persecution of which so much complaint is continually made.

You may depend upon it, sir, this plan of acting will not do much longer, even though it should succeed this time. The attempts of dissenters to emancipate themselves have been, by the defection of their guides, so often defeated, that they have lost all confidence in ministers on subjects affecting their civil liberties.

In former struggles the people had no organ, apart from our London leaders, by which they could make themselves heard. Now, your paper is, happily, a safety valve for the principles of dissent; and I hope you will give warning to dissenters to be on their guard against persons who shall be appointed to visit different parts of the country, proposing, in terms, that local associations shall be established, but having for their object, to leave impressions that shall infallibly neutralise and bring to nought your convention.

Many things are going on in this city which country dissenters little dream of. I can assure you and them, that it is no fiction of my imagination, but a reality, known to many here, that, in the accomplishment of your convention, the dissenting ministers of London dread the loss of their influence and power.

Nov. 21st, 1843.

A NONCONFORMIST.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH WAFERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Will you allow me, through the medium of your paper, to suggest the propriety of our adopting anti-state-church wafers for our letters, consisting of mottoes and pithy sentences *ad rem*. The Anti-corn-law League, the Temperance societies, and others, are adopting a similar expedient, and I doubt not with effect. We want to make men think, and such a plan appears to me admirably adapted to accomplish this purpose. The mottoes should be printed, not, I think, in common black and white, but in the manner of those on ordinary fancy wafers, so as to make them elegant and attractive.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Exeter, Nov. 7th, 1843.

TESTIS.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION.

Birmingham, Nov. 20th, 1843.

The executive Council of the Complete Suffrage Union met at Birmingham on Monday afternoon—the President in the chair.

Letters were read from Kendal, Cheltenham, Market Harborough, Bishopwearmouth, Devizes, Bath, Bridgwater, Worcester.

Mr CRAWFORD'S PLAN.—The sub-committee, to whom it was remitted to consider the best mode of obtaining the support of the constituencies to Mr Crawford's proposal to move amendments, that the supplies be withheld until the grievances of the people are heard and redressed, reported that they had considered the subject, and had resolved to recommend—

First, That the electors and non-electors in every borough should send distinct memorials, requesting their representatives in parliament to give effect to it.

Second, That the memorialists should present their memorials in London at the opening of parliament, by deputy. The deputies to consult together as to the best means of promoting the objects of the memorialists.

Third, That a selection of boroughs should be made, as the most likely to take the lead in this movement, to whose constituents special appeals in behalf of the proposal should be made, and that as many of those boroughs as possible should be visited by deputation from the Council, whose endeavours should be immediately directed to the carrying out of the foregoing suggestions.

The committee, in considering this subject, had brought under their notice the plan of operations now in course of being pursued by friends of the cause in Birmingham, and beg to recommend it as worthy of the adoption of other boroughs, modified in its details as local circumstances may suggest. The plan is this:—A number of friends of political freedom were called together to consider the present and future prospects of the cause of an equality of political rights. They met, and having unanimously approved of Mr Crawford's proposal, resolved themselves into a general committee to give effect to it. A plan of operations was agreed upon. The plan was this—to call ward meetings—appoint deputies to state the case at each meeting—and if the proposal was approved, suggest the formation of ward committees to give effect to it by obtaining signatures to a memorial and address from the electors and non-electors to the members for the borough, requesting them to support it—copies of these memorials to be left at every house; and after holding a public meeting to consider what steps should be taken next session of parliament to obtain a redress of the people's grievances, the signatures should be called in, and such arrangements made for presenting the memorials as the memorialists might consider best.

The committee also beg to report a list of boroughs to be visited and written to on the subject.

The following are copies of the memorial and address now in course of signature by the electors and non-electors of Birmingham:—

"The Address of the Non-electors of Birmingham, to Joshua Scholefield and George Frederick Muntz, Esqrs, M.P.

"SIRS—The law of the land has conferred the franchise on some of our neighbours, and they have chosen you as members of parliament for the borough of Birmingham. It is with no disrespect that we do not give you that title. Certain it is that we never could have chosen you, for the same law which gives it to them denies us the right of choice. You must excuse us for thus speaking out the truth, which, unless we were slaves indeed, must ever be present to our minds. We have some satisfaction, however, in believing that you are not unmindful of our just claims, and that you will not prove yourselves indisposed to forward them.

"The fundamental principles of the British constitution declare that no tax shall be levied without the consent of 'all the freemen of the land,' and that 'laws to bind all must be assented to by all.' We are of 'the freemen of the land,' and we come to you to ask our rights as freemen. We come to remind you that the same constitution which calls us freemen gives you the power to make us so.

"In the next session of parliament you will be called upon to vote away the people's money, and for any and everything but the people's benefit. Before doing so, it will be well to ask yourselves, where that money comes

from? We know too well. The parliament in which you sit takes from the pockets of the working man, by monopoly and taxation, about seven shillings out of every guinea he has to spend. Suppose there are 21,000 families in this place, whose united earnings are a guinea a week each. If so, here are 7,000 guineas per week, 1,000 per diem, or 365,000 guineas per annum, taken from the pockets of the working men of Birmingham.

"Where did the parliament get the right to take it? Where did you get the right to vote it away? In that Reform bill which excluded from the ancient birthright of freeborn Englishmen five out of six of all the freemen of the land. You may fairly vote the levying of taxes on those who sent you to the house of Commons, but it is neither according to the British constitution or common honesty that you should take one penny out of our pockets. We are not unwilling to contribute a fair share to the needful expenses of good government; but we claim first a fair share in that government through our freely chosen representatives, and without this, to impose on us either taxes or laws is, according to sound constitutional writers, 'nothing better than mere tyranny.'

"Too long have we borne with this injustice, so wicked in itself, and to us so full of wrong and cruelty in all its consequences; but the grievance ought not to be silently endured; and we are assured that the British constitution places in your hands the practical remedy, and it is this—that the grievances of the people should be searched into and redressed before the taxes are voted. We respectfully call your attention to the manner in which this constitutional remedy can be brought to bear. You will find it explained in a published letter from William Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P., to Joseph Sturge, which we recommend to your notice. As wronged men we implore you to use the means he points out to procure the restoration of our rights. We promise to stand by you to a man, should you take this bold but honourable course of proceeding; and should parliament refuse to do us justice, you should use your power to stop those supplies they will then have no right to take. To conclude, we must tell you that it appears to us nothing but a desire to continue our grievances, or the fear of offending those who do, will prevent your acting on the suggestions of Mr Crawford, by allying yourselves with the few popular men in the House of Commons who are ready to do their duty in the matter. If you shrink from it, you love injustice, or want the proper courage to overthrow it. 'Be just and fear not,' is a first-rate maxim for a law-maker. We pray you to remember it. Boldly oppose the granting of the supplies until the people's right to a share in the choice of the legislature, with such provisions as will make the choice fair and free, be distinctly secured by the vote of the House of Commons. By doing so, you will acquire the gratitude of the great bulk of your countrymen, and deserve to be the members for Birmingham, while life and strength shall remain, for the duties of legislating for a free and intelligent people."

"The Memorial of the Electors of Birmingham, to Joshua Scholefield and George Frederick Muntz, Esqrs, M.P.

"GENTLEMEN—

"As those whom a large number of the electors of this borough have placed in the responsible situation of legislators, we ask you to survey the social condition and political prospects of our country, with all the seriousness befitting men who necessarily contribute, by their position, to influence its weal or woe.

"Men of all parties have been compelled to acknowledge that both for its intensity, extent, and duration, the yet present reign of distress has been wholly unexampled; nor is it possible to avoid coming to the conclusion expressed by my Lord Howick, that there must be something organically wrong when a country of so fertile resources, and a people of such skilful and industrious habits, are continually plunged into suffering more and yet more intense. As electors, we feel that it behoves us especially to inquire into the causes of these forebodings of national decay. We have done so, and we beg to tell you our opinion that the cause is to be found in the neglect by our legislators to redress the grievances of the people; especially that great grievance by which the people are deprived of their right of self-government. Most truly may the language applied by Lord J. Russell to the unreformed House of Commons be addressed to the present House—'No man of common sense pretends that this assembly now represents the *commonalty* or people of England.' How could it be otherwise, when the Reform bill itself excluded from the elective franchise the great mass of the people. We speak thus plainly, lest we should countenance the delusion that the House of Commons has been substantially reformed. We are firmly persuaded that (to use the language of Lord Chancellor Somers) 'amongst all the rights and privileges appertaining unto us, that of having a share in the legislation, and being to be governed by such laws as we ourselves shall choose, is the most fundamental and essential, as well as the most advantageous and beneficial.' These rights and privileges we would extend to all our countrymen, for we agree with the profound Montesquieu, that the great bulk of the people can 'have no hand in the government but for the choosing of their representatives, which is within their reach; for although few can tell the exact degrees of men's capacities, yet there are none but are capable of knowing in general, whether the person they choose is better qualified than most of his neighbours.' We believe these to be substantially your own views. We are anxious, therefore, to impress on you the necessity that something should be done to secure that weight for them in the country, and especially in parliament, which their importance demands.

"We do not forget those other great grievances, under which the people suffer, especially the restrictions on trade and industry, and the assumptions of the state church; but the great master grievance is non-representation. The experience of repeated disappointments has taught us to believe that there is no effectual remedy for this state of things but a recurrence to the ancient and constitutional practice of withholding the supplies till the grievances of the people are heard and redressed.

"We would refer you to a published letter of W. S. Crawford, M.P., on this subject, and would remind you of those bright pages in the history of the British senate, when, by this instrumentality, the dauntless Pym and his compeers successfully battled down the usurpations of both the crown and aristocracy, and roused even a servile Commons to recollect that they professed to represent the people, and were bound to redress their grievances. The circumstances of the times are sufficiently parallel to persuade us that a similar effort, made by a few zealous and

patriotic members, would effect the most important benefits for the British people.

"Consider, we pray you, your position as the members of one of the largest boroughs in the kingdom, and representing, to some extent, the sentiments of the great bulk of the people, who yearn for admission within the pale of the British constitution. Standing thus in the house of Commons, you may well disregard the opinions of a hostile majority, composed, as you know it to be, of the nominees of the borough patrons and county dictators who make up the governing oligarchy of England."

"In conclusion, we have only to repeat our conviction that vast powers and responsibilities rest in the hands of men like yourselves, who represent the few still independent constituencies. It is your duty to combine together to procure a redress of the people's grievances: the people will most assuredly rally round you—and should the majority obstinately refuse to listen to your proposals, it will then be your duty to use every resource which the constitution furnishes to prevent their getting those supplies which no parliament can take, if, relying on the people for support, a few patriotic members will dare to withhold them."

"Resolved—That the report of the sub-committee be approved, and that the secretary bring the recommendations there-in specially under the notice of the correspondents of the Union, with an earnest request that they may take the earliest opportunity of bringing them under the consideration of the electors and non-electors in the several localities."

LIVERPOOL.—TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 14th.—Henry Vincent's second lecture was delivered this evening to one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in the town. The spacious Commercial hall was densely crowded nearly an hour before the time appointed. The platform and reserved seats were filled by a highly respectable body of ladies and gentlemen, amongst whom were C. E. Rawlings, Esq.; — Medley, Esq.; Dr Cox, of Hackney; and influential members of the Anti-monopoly association. Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., was unanimously called to the chair. Considerable difficulty was felt, at first, in consequence of the pressure of the crowd; but order was soon restored. Mr Vincent presented himself, and was received with deafening cheers. He spoke upwards of two hours on the present state of the United Kingdom—more especially of Ireland, showing that aristocratic oppression was the cause of agitation, and the parent of agitators. The address, throughout, was responded to by the most vociferous cheers; and, at the conclusion, a vote of thanks was given, with three times three cheers. A resolution of sympathy with the Irish people, in their peaceful struggle, was carried unanimously; and was to be forwarded to Daniel O'Connell by the chairman.

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE.—On Thursday and Friday nights, Henry Vincent addressed a large body of the inhabitants of this old radical town, in the Temperance hall, "on the evils accruing from a defective representation of the people in parliament;" and "on the justice and policy of complete suffrage, and the advantages that would flow therefrom." The chair was occupied, on both occasions, by James Livesey (one of the first teetotalers, and author of "The Struggle"), who made a manly avowal of his attachment to complete suffrage, and of his desire to see his fellow-countrymen mentally and morally elevated. Mr Vincent was received with great cordiality, and elicited, at both meetings, the warmest approbation of his auditors. It is believed that the suffrage cause will soon assume an important attitude in this old town. The country will remember that Preston returned Henry Hunt to parliament; and both its present members vote for Sharman Crawford's motion. Mr Vincent was earnestly solicited to visit the town again at his earliest convenience. There is a wish to see increased activity displayed at this important crisis.

H. VINCENT'S VISIT TO BOLTON.—It gives us unfeigned pleasure to be able to announce, that on Monday and Tuesday, the 27th and 28th instant, Mr Vincent, the able, eloquent, and indefatigable complete suffrage advocate, will lecture in this town. Mr Vincent has lectured in most of the principal towns in England, and everywhere has been received with the utmost enthusiasm. The newspapers published in the various towns which he has visited almost invariably speak of him in the highest terms; and there can be no doubt, that those persons who may have the pleasure of hearing Mr Vincent here will enjoy a treat of the highest order. It will be seen by the advertisement that Colonel Thompson and our excellent representative, Dr Bowring, will be present on the Tuesday evening. Of these gentlemen it is not necessary for us to say more than that they are two of the most talented, laborious, and useful public men of the day.—*Bolton Free Press.*

MELBOURNE.—A lecture was delivered here on Friday evening, by Mr Philp, on the principles and objects of the Complete Suffrage Union. The meeting was held in the Baptist School room, and the attendance pretty good. Mr Philp introduced himself by stating that he was not come as the agent of the Complete Suffrage Union, nor as the paid servant of any party; he had studied the subject for himself, and on his own responsibility he stood before them as the advocate of universal charity and comprehensive freedom. He took for his motto, "Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you." His address gave great satisfaction to the meeting, and the spirit of philanthropy which animated it, elicited much applause. We trust it will prepare the way for a more attentive consideration of the subject than has yet been bestowed upon it by us; and that we shall not be the last to act up to that responsibility which attaches to us as men and as citizens.

LEICESTER.—The monthly meeting of the complete suffrage association of this town was held on Tuesday evening last, at the Town hall, Mr John Collier in

the chair. The Secretary (Mr H. A. Collier) said that, at a meeting of delegates, held at Leicester on the 22nd of August, arrangements had been made for transferring the centre and superintendence of the Midland Counties district from Nottingham to Leicester, but these appointments were made by the Birmingham council, both for the sake of unity, and because local societies could not correspond with each other. But, though the council were aware of the proceedings at that meeting, they had taken no steps in the matter. The question of bringing complete suffrage principles especially before the liberal electors of the borough, having been again discussed, it was moved by Mr Pegg, seconded by Mr Burness, and resolved, that it will be desirable for Mr Vincent, on his next visit, to address himself especially to that class of persons. Thanks were voted, on the motion of Mr Bird, seconded by Mr Booth, to the council at Birmingham, for their spirited address to the people, which, Mr Bird observed, contained the principle laid down by Sir Harry Vane and the reformers of his day, in 1642. The attention of the committee was called by Mr Pegg and Mr Crossley to the necessity of being prepared with complete suffrage candidates for a parliamentary election. The Secretary said that such preparation was the more necessary, as the rumour of Sir John Easthope's retirement had been revived; and probably the first announcement of his resignation would appear in the address of the next whig candidate, such being the usual policy of that party. The Secretary moved, "That the thanks of this association be presented to William Biggs, Esq., the late mayor of the borough, for the kindness and promptitude with which he has on all occasions, during his mayoralty, granted the use of the hall for the meetings of the society; and that Mr H. Hall be requested to present the same." Mr Booth seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and the meeting broke up.—*Leicester Mercury.*

THE MANCHESTER SOIREE.—The soirée continues to occupy a good portion of the attention of the public. The sale of tickets proceeds briskly, and there is no doubt of an overflowing attendance of the supporters of the great principle of popular representation on this interesting occasion. This is the first time that a united gathering of the friends of a full, fair, and free system has been held in Manchester; and it is peculiarly important that it should be a demonstration long worthy the remembrance of us all. The distinguished individuals who are to address the meeting will, we are sure, meet with a hearty welcome, and return to their homes gratified with the result of their attendance. We hope that some of those not yet quite convinced of the expediency of extending the franchise to all classes of the people, will be at the meeting to hear evidence.

General News.

FOREIGN.

SPAIN.

"The Lopez cabinet has reached its zenith of power and glory. It has now counted full six months of triumphs from the day in which it swore fidelity to the Regent. Since then every obstacle thrown in its path has only served as a stepping-stone to new victories."

So says the Madrid correspondent of the *Times*. The Queen had received the congratulations of the two Chambers on the proclamation of her majority, and had replied to the same in person with considerable dignity; says the *Times*, "If the idea were compatible with that of a girl of thirteen entering into state affairs, and responding for the first time to the solemn act of etiquette by which the Spanish Cortes recognised its infant Queen."

Soon after the declaration of the Queen's majority, the ministry tendered their resignation, which the Queen refused to accept; and on the 10th instant a decree was passed, maintaining, *pro tem.*, the present government. In the sitting of the Chambers on the 11th, the Congress declared that the provisional government had deserved well of the nation, and that the members of the existing cabinet enjoyed the confidence of the Chamber. The resolution was carried unanimously. On the 14th, her Majesty gave a grand dinner, at which all the ministers, and several of the high dignitaries of state, were present. Active preparations are being made for creating once more a numerous and "brilliant" household for her Majesty—one in every way worthy of the old régime.

General Narvaez had been unremitting to detect the parties who attempted his life. A coffee-house keeper, implicated in the murder of General Quesada, in 1836, was among the individuals against whom arrest warrants had been issued, as compromised in the attempt against the life of General Narvaez. The doctrine of *compliciti morale* had been invoked with respect to the opposition journalists. Three writers of the *Eco del Comercio*, and the principal editors of the *Espectador*, had been apprehended as participants in that act. This last journal could not accordingly be published on the 15th. These writers had been removed to a barrack, where they were provisionally confined.

The last expiring efforts on behalf of a central junta appear to have died away. Official intelligence from Orense, dated the 5th inst., states that Iriarte and 800 men have retired from an attempt on that town to take refuge in Portugal, pursued by General Cottona. In the evening of the 6th, General Iriarte, accompanied by a number of officers and soldiers, entered Portugal, on the side of San Gregorio, where they were disarmed. On receipt of this intelligence, the government despatched Colonel Salazar to Portugal to demand the arrest and extra-

dition of the rebels. There had been revolutionary movements at Tarifa and Algesiras, as well as at Seville. At the last-mentioned place, by the latest accounts, several sergeants of the King's squadron had been arrested, together with some of the townspeople, implicated in an attempt to revolutionise the city, and proclaim the central junta. The activity of the authorities had, however, again repressed these attempts. It is expected, now that the Queen's majority has been proclaimed, that no further attempts to agitate for a central junta will be made.

Ameter, with his troops, had evacuated Gerona, having blown up a powder magazine and spiked the guns. He proceeded to Figueras, where the most active preparations were being made for placing the castle in a formidable state of defence, the insurgent junta in the meanwhile collecting provisions for the garrison. An obstinate resistance to the government forces was apprehended.

It was expected that Barcelona would shortly capitulate to General Sanz. The latest accounts from Perpignan, dated the 14th instant, state—"The first alcalde of Barcelona has repaired to the head-quarters of Gracia, and proposed to enter into negotiations, in the name of the city. The captain-general made known his conditions to the insurgents, and granted them a delay of forty-eight hours to come to a decision upon them. He then published an order of the day, announcing that hostilities should be suspended from this morning."

FRANCE.

The French government appears to be incessant, and as active in its preparations to resist internal enemies. "The only reason suggested for this *emprisonement*," says the private letter of the *Times*, "is, that a movement, or, perhaps, more than one movement, may be expected to take place on the demise of his Majesty, King Louis Philippe, who is, however, I am happy to inform you, in the enjoyment of excellent health." The *Reforme* mentions that the palace of the Tuilleries would be guarded next winter by sixteen military posts, sixty-five sentinels, two pickets of reserve stationed in the galleries of the Pavilion de l'Horloge, by a post of aides-de-camp encamped at the entrance of the King's private apartments, and by fifty police agents, dressed in plain clothes, who are to be renewed daily, lest they should be remarked or recognised. These precautions may, however, be of no avail, if we may believe the statement of the same authority:—

The spirit of the army is not in the slightest degree changed, and may be expected to continue the same, notwithstanding the innumerable means imagined for separating the soldiers from the citizens. Special or favourite corps may occupy important and commanding positions, and devoted colonels may be placed at the head of every one of them (the influence of generals is scarcely felt), but the sub-officers are to-day the men their predecessors were in 1829; and so long as the mode of recruitment shall remain unchanged, so long will it be impossible to have an army with improved dispositions or principles.

The Paris papers of Thursday state that the meeting of the chamber of Deputies has been definitely fixed for Tuesday, the 26th December.

The mint has just struck a very fine medal, in commemoration of the visit of Queen Victoria to the Chateau d'Eu. On the obverse is the profile of the young sovereign of Great Britain, and on the reverse the following legend:—"S. M. Victoria, reine d'Angleterre, visite S. M. Louis Philippe, roi des Francais, au Chateau d'Eu, en Septembre, 1843." The die was cut by M. Borrel.

The *Union of Provinces* publishes the following intelligence, which, in the opinion of *La Reforme*, must put an end to all the dynastic pretensions of the Bourbons of Spain:—

The Spanish refugees, residing at Nantes, have just been informed that Charles V., anxious to remove every obstacle to the pacification of Spain, has resolved to abdicate in favour of the Prince of the Asturias, who is to reign under the name of Charles VI. The young prince will marry his cousin, who is to preserve the title of queen of Spain, and to be called Isabel II. Charles V. and Christina will be at liberty to return to Spain. Don Carlos, by his abdication, and the assumption, by his son, of the name of Charles VI., will preserve inviolate the rights and the principle of legitimacy. We give this report, however premature it may appear; but, as the Spanish refugees of Nantes have received it in almost an official manner, we may consider it as not altogether devoid of foundation. This result, the happiest and most desirable for unfortunate Spain, was obtained by the intervention of the courts of the north.

GREECE.

The *Journal des Débats* publishes a letter from Athens of the 30th ult., announcing the arrival of General Coletti at the port of Piraeus on that day. He received a salute of 175 guns from the different ships of war—Greek, French, British, Russian, and Austrian, in the harbour. At the landing place, where a vast multitude was assembled, the cries of "Long live Coletti! long live the good patriot!" resounded on all sides. When his carriage drove off, it was accompanied by a number of women and children, repeating with enthusiasm similar exclamations.

The following is the result of the elections. Of 225 members of the assembly, there are nearly 90 Napists, and 135 constitutionalists, of which 80 acknowledge Coletti as their chief.

The *Greek Observer* of the 30th ult., publishes an address of the ministers of King Otho to the Greeks, in which they inform them of the measures they had adopted for insuring public order in the capital, where the deputies were about to meet and to deliberate on the constitution which was intended to guarantee the rights of the nation and of the throne.

The deputies are called upon to set the example of respect for the law, and not to bring with them armed servants, according to an old practice, little in accord with the liberty and dignity of their deliberations. Notwithstanding the agitation inseparable from the elections, the most perfect order continued to prevail in the provinces and the capital; and everything announced that the work of the regeneration of Greece would be peacefully accomplished. The deputies were beginning to arrive in the capital.

The *Gazette de Cologne* says, that the cabinet of Vienna has declared against any attempt to counter-revolutionise Greece.

The *Times* correspondent informs us that "Russia is determined henceforward to take no part, either direct or indirect, in the affairs of Greece. M. de Brunow has notified to his colleagues in London, that it was his Sovereign's will that he withdrew from the conference, and a similar notification was made in Paris by M. Kisseloff to M. Guizot on the 12th inst."

ITALY.

It would appear that although the late insurrection in Italy had been suppressed, fears were entertained in high quarters that new disturbances might break out next spring, unless that which was not deemed probable, the Roman government, listening to the counsels of its best friends, should make some concessions to the popular party in the grant of free institutions.

"The reports," says the *Commerce*, "which go into circulation relative to disturbances in Sicily on the arrival of the Neapolitan steamer Nettuno at Toulon are likewise mentioned in a letter from Leghorn of the 9th inst. The government was making preparations to send reinforcements to that island. Some demonstrations were apprehended in Calabria and the Abruzzi, where the events of Bologna had produced a deep impression."

"The accounts from the Roman states," observes the same journal, "are of a painful nature. Among the persons lately arrested at Bologna is M. Barbetti of the legation of Ravenna, for some years a resident as Bologna. Arms, ammunition, and papers said to be of importance, were discovered in his possession. Also a fireman, who was the bearer of a number of revolutionary proclamations. We are assured that the military commission will shortly sit on the trial of the political prisoners."

BELGIUM.

The Belgian Chamber of representatives was opened on Tuesday last, by the King in person. The royal speech particularly dwelt upon the desirability of raising funds in order to restore to agriculture the large quantity of inundated territory in Belgium. It also strongly recommends the establishment of a company for "organising uninterrupted relations with distant countries," similar to one which was instituted a century ago;—the complete organisation of a national system of education;—and a law for placing the army on a more safe and desirable basis. The speech ends as follows:—

"I am happy to announce to you, that it will be possible to establish in the management of taxation a perfect equilibrium between the necessities of the public service and the revenues of the treasury; and this desirable object it is proposed to attain by a plan for a diminution in the expenditure of the finances of the country, which will be immediately submitted for your approbation."

"It will be seen, therefore, gentlemen, that we may look to the future with security. The spirit of union and concord, the love of national institutions, will continue to animate you in the accomplishment of the task which you have with me to perform for the happiness and the moral and physical advancement of our country. In doing this you will deserve well of your fellow citizens, and acquire a new title to the gratitude of your country."

AMERICA.

The packet ship Oxford has brought intelligence two days later than was received by the Hibernia. The papers contain but little news.

The *New York Herald* of the 1st instant concludes a brief argument on the subject of repeal of the Irish union, in which the waning interest in that subject is accounted for by reference to the alleged injustice of O'Connell towards the States, with the following vague statement:—

"We have every reason to believe, therefore, that some general organisation or association will soon be produced in this metropolis, having for its object the legal and constitutional reform of all the governments of western Europe. Here will probably be the grand centre of a great revolutionary movement, equally embracing England, France, Italy, and Spain. Such, at least, is our recent information."

The accounts from Mexico confirm the statement recently put forth in this country, to the effect that the government of that country has issued a decree prohibiting foreigners from engaging in trade in that republic. Naturalised foreigners, foreigners married to Mexican women, and those who reside in the republic with their families, are made exceptions to the prohibition.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Danish government has just abolished the tax of fourteen crowns imposed on all persons claiming liberty to contract a mixed marriage between protestant and catholic.

The nuptials of the Emperor of Brazil with the Princess Theresa of Naples, were solemnised at Rio

NEWSPAPER.—The Porte has determined on establishing a general police, on a European model, at Constantinople.

It will be recollect that some time since the king of the Sandwich islands, in consequence of Lord George Paulet seeking reparation for an injury, ceded his dominions to the Queen of England. Accounts have now been received of a settlement of the matter by Admiral Thomas. The king's dominions and rights have been restored to him, a treaty has been formed between him and England, and great were the rejoicings that took place on the occasion—"all prisoners of every description" having been discharged, and government business suspended for ten days. The *Times*, which has an amusing article on this event, thus records the conditions of the treaty:—

"His Majesty guarantees to Britain the privileges of the most favoured nations in Sandwich land."

"His Majesty will give British captains every facility for offering him useful suggestions and disinterested advice and information upon points brought under mutual discussion."

"His Majesty will withdraw a certain attachment placed on the property of the British Consul at the instance of a foreigner, and 'upon a suit instituted in the absence both of plaintiff and defendant.'

"His Majesty will confine in fetters no British subject, 'unless riotous and quarrelsome, and then only for the security of his person.'

"His Majesty will try British subjects according to the 'incipient laws of the country,' by a jury *de medietate linguae*, will respect consuls, and will adjust differences, 'through the representatives of his Majesty Kamehameha III. at the court of St James's,' or otherwise, as the British government shall propose."

A RELIC OF THE PEGASUS.—The *Journal des Debats* states, that a few days since a bottle was found on the coast of Holland, containing a slip of paper, on which was written "Pegasus steamer, to Fern Islands, night of Wednesday, July 19, 1843. In great distress; struck upon hidden rocks. On board fifty-five persons, vessel must go down, and no Grace Darling." [In giving the last two words they translate the first (Grace) "safety" (*salut!*) not aware that they referred to the intrepid girl now unhappily dead.]

THE CANADA UNIVERSITY.—A bill has been introduced into the provincial parliament, which proposes that King's college shall be divided into two institutions; the one to be called "The University of Toronto," and the other "King's College in said University." Mention is made in the bill of the episcopal body in Canada; not, however, as the church of England, but as the protestant episcopal church. This is fair to the other Canadian churches. The bill tells us plainly there is, and shall be, no dominant church in Canada.—*Toronto Christian Guardian*.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE SOUTH SEAS.—Intelligence of a highly interesting nature from both the Society and Sandwich Islands has been received in this country during the past week. In reference to the former group, or rather the chief island, Tahiti, an article appears in the *Patriot*, which will excite lively feelings of satisfaction in the friends of human rights, and, still more, of Christian missions. This article, which has been received by way of the United States, contains a proclamation by Commodore Nicholas, of her Britannic Majesty's ship *Vindictive*, dated "Papeete harbour, Tahiti, June 20, 1843," and addressed to all British subjects in that island. The purport of the proclamation is, to announce that the Commodore has received from the British Admiral stationed in the South Seas, instructions to cause the parties addressed to seek whatever justice they may require either from the officers of their own sovereign in Tahiti, or through the established courts of Queen Pomare; to decline obedience to any summons as jurors, and to hold themselves subject to no regulations whatever, issued by the French authorities temporarily established there, under the style of a provisional government, or to any French officer, whatever his rank, until the decision of the Queen of England regarding Tahiti is known. The Commodore expresses his own determination to enforce these instructions, with all courtesy to the French, but also with all firmness; and he explicitly avows his own conviction, that while England neither seeks nor desires to maintain a paramount influence in the islands, she is fully determined to suffer no other nation to possess a greater influence or authority there than herself. He concludes with the following remarkable passage:—

"More than all do I believe myself authorised to state, that it is the determination of the Queen of England to preserve the sovereignty of Tahiti independent and free."

In addition to the above, Commodore Nicholas is stated in the same communication to have ordered the French flag on the shore of Tahiti to be taken down, which, however, had not yet been done. Another private letter from the island itself, under date of June 27th, observes that the gallant officer is thought equal to any emergency which may arise, and announces that "under his protection the laws have been revised and new ones added, markets established, and a per centage fixed to be paid to Queen Pomare on all imports."

MR GEORGE THOMPSON.—The *Delhi Gazette*, of the 14th of August, informs us—"Mr George Thompson, the well-known lecturer on the state of India and the corn laws, has for some time been a resident among us, in pursuance of having, at the request of his Majesty of Delhi, consented to act as a kind of ambassador to the court of directors, and to lay before that honourable body the grievances, real or imaginary, of the Great Mogul. Many impediments have been thrown in Mr Thompson's way, in his endeavours to obtain an interview with the King, but he at length succeeded. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 22nd instant, Mr Thompson was escorted from his residence to the palace, and

there introduced to the King with the usual forms. His Majesty conferred upon Mr Thompson a title, a khillut and jewels, and also an elephant and a horse. Mr Thompson, after conversing for some time with the King, visited the heir apparent, and the other royal princes. Mr Thompson presented nuzzlers to the King, the heir apparent, the Queen, and the Princes, and received from them presents of khilluts, shawls, &c. Mr Thompson left the palace soon after ten o'clock, and, according to custom, was conducted round the Juma Musjid. The presents offered by the King were really of a very valuable nature. It will be seen by the following minutes and correspondence that Mr Thompson will henceforth represent the interests of the Landholders' society in England. This appointment proves that Mr Thompson has succeeded in gaining the confidence of the most influential association at present existing in India, for the purpose of benefiting the country."

AMBITION DESIGNS OF RUSSIA.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* gives an interesting account of the European policy of the court of St Petersburg:—

With respect to Italy, I have fresh reason for informing you that the disturbances in the Romagna, and the movements in Greece, were more or less connected with each other. You will be surprised to learn, however, that although the principle of the revolt in Italy and of the revolution in Greece have been the same—constitutional, almost democratic, Russia is said to have been the promoter of both. An Italian paper, printed in Paris, *La Jeune Italie*, chiefly for circulation among the Italian refugees, states that the late attempt at insurrection in Italy failed, not because that disaffection was not general throughout that peninsula, but because that the ultra or real democratic party refused to concur in it. The reason given for this holding back is, that the republicans would not aid in movement suggested by Russia. Everything was, it seems, prepared for a general Italian insurrection. The movement was to commence in Naples, where it was expected a portion of the army would lead or immediately enter into it. Upon the knowledge of that revolt, Lombardy, Piedmont, and the Romagna would rise; and an Italian empire, the ruler over which would be the Duke de Leuchtenberg, son of the universally beloved, nearly adored Viceroy of Italy, Eugene Beauharnais—and, bear this in mind, son-in-law of the Emperor Nicholas. *La Jeune Italie*, like *La Jeune France*, would not promote the monarchical views of any man, and consequently (according to the authorities before me) the revolt in Italy miscarried. If this be all true, and I fear it will prove substantially so, Russia is beginning to play out her game. She would not in Italy, no more than elsewhere, propose or support a democratic revolution; but to establish a new empire in Europe, the head of which would be a Russian Prince, would for a thousand reasons be most desirable to her. If that great end could be attained, so much the better; but there was another—an immediate, though perhaps not quite so important an advantage to be gained by any outbreak in Italy—the causing of alarm to Austria, and the withdrawal of her attention from the fearful projects of Russia on the Danube.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVER.—Extract of a letter dated H.M.S. *Fisguard*, Rio, September 11:—"The *Frolic* arrived here last night, with a slaver she had captured off Cape Frio, having on board 360 slaves, men, women, and children. This slaver was only about double the size of one of our launches, and the poor unfortunate beings were packed in her like as many herrings would be in a cask. It appears that they had been stowed in like this for the space of forty-five days. Death had happily released a great many of them from their torture. But oh, the sight of the living masses of corruption was enough to strike terror into the most flinty heart, as they were covered with sores from head to foot. They were as soon as possible relieved from their forty-five day regimen, being taken out, and placed on board the receiving ship for that purpose. You can more easily imagine than I can describe the skeleton frames of these poor wretches, when I tell you that 220 of them were taken at once into our launch, and conveyed to the receiving ship. Our men really sickened at the spectacles they had to behold in the shape of humanity; and I was glad when the last had been taken out, for I never beheld such a sight before. There were among them forty female children, supposed to be under seven years of age, and forty-five males under ten."—*Hants Independent*.

It is stated in the *Bombay Gentlemen's Gazette*, Sept. 29th, that a rumour is current in well-informed quarters that Colonel Stoddart, whose death has been long believed, is yet alive.

Egypt.—Letters from Alexandria of the 26th ult., state that Mehemet Ali had abandoned all hope of the return of the Pacha of Soudan to his allegiance, and he was consequently re-organising his fleet, and placing his land forces on the war establishment.

Jews have been hitherto forbidden to enter Norway. The interdiction has been suspended in favour of such Israelite naturalists as may wish to attend the scientific congress to be held at Christiania during the next summer. It is supposed that this is an indication of a reform favourable to religious freedom.

DOMESTIC.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL.—(From a Correspondent.)—On Tuesday, the first time in the history of Scotland, the town council elected, to the dynasty of lord provost of the city, a dissenter from the forms of worship established in both ends of the island—an old and steady voluntary; and on Thursday this was followed up by a resolution carried by a large majority, that the ancient practice of the council, proceeding in a body to the High church of Edinburgh, should be given up—thus snapping the last tie that bound them to the establishment—so far at least as their own will is concerned. As might be expected, the new



dissenters, or, as they call themselves, the Free churchmen, were among the foremost advocates for the abolition of the practice; and several of them indulge pretty freely in reflections on the new lord provost for his intimation, that supposing this motion had not been carried, he would have gone occasionally to the establishment. They forget that his lordship's position is different from theirs—to him the establishment is no worse than it always was. They, indeed, regard it as a degenerate institution, and therefore they have left it; but all other dissenters deny that it has undergone any change—it is what it always was, a corrupt and a fettered establishment. As Mr Black, therefore, had no scruple in occasionally attending church when a councillor, he argues that there is no reason why he should now decline to attend as lord provost. As an argument addressed to Free churchmen, it must be owned, that his lordship's reasoning is unanswerable. A more important question, however, remains—how the lord provost can reconcile his intention of going to church, with his principles as a conscientious voluntary, maintaining that the civil magistrate, as such, has no place in the house of God. It were to be wished, that dissenters would rise, more frequently than they do, to the full dignity of their own principles. It is such vacillating conduct as that of the lord provost, that retards, more than all the exertions of our enemies, the complete triumph of the principles of civil and religious liberty. The composition of the council, in a religious point of view, stands thus:—members of the established church, 10; of the episcopal church, 1; of the Free church, 5; and of the other dissenting bodies, 17. Of the four bailies, three belong to the united secession, and one (elected last year) to the established church.

THE CASE OF BLASPHEMY.—In our last number we gave the decision of the Court in this case. The address of the Lord Justice Clerk is too important to be passed over. The learned judge thus concluded his address:—

"Thomas Patterson, the sentence of this Court is, that for the offence of which you have been convicted, you be imprisoned for the period of fifteen calendar months, and whatever you may think of what I now say—I say to you, that in the prospect of the solemn and serious duty of pronouncing judgment upon a fellow creature, I prayed to the Almighty God in whom I believe, that in his infinite compassion he would yet vouchsafe to you the comfort, and the peace, and the hope, and the joy, of believing in that adorable Redeemer, whose mercy you have hitherto so contemptuously rejected."

We learn that on Friday the prisoners Patterson and Robinson, condemned for issuing blasphemous publications, had their heads shaved, were clothed in the prison dress, and were employed in breaking stones.—*Edinburgh Courant.* [In a prison of the island of Madeira lies Dr Kalley, incarcerated by the authorities for blasphemy; in Edinburgh gaol Patterson and his friend are immured for the same crime. If it be the part of the civil magistrate to act as the physical force champion of the Almighty, which of the authorities in the above cases are in the right?]

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.—Mr Fox Maule was re-elected lord rector of Glasgow university on Thursday. His opponent was the Earl of Eglinton, and the numbers were—for Maule 246, Eglinton 187. Principal Macfarlan entered a protest against the election, on the ground that Mr Maule was ineligible; referring, of course, to his connexion with the Free church.

INCREASE OF FEVER.—The great increase of fever in this town, amongst the poor, has roused the charity of the benevolent—upwards of six hundred pounds having already been raised for the temporary relief of the more urgent claimants.—*Scotsman.*

HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS.—We learn from the *Scotsman* that the working men of Edinburgh have commenced a movement to establish baths on a grand scale for their own use in that city. They are to hold a public meeting under the auspices of Lord Dunfermline; and his lordship, with many leading men in Edinburgh, have resolved to encourage the project, as tending to promote the many virtues which are the offspring of cleanliness.

A report obtained circulation last week, that Mr John Bennet, the member for South Wiltshire, was dead; but it was contradicted by the *Wiltshire Independent* of Thursday last.

In consequence of the large number of notices of private bills to be introduced in the ensuing session of parliament, an extra *Gazette* was published on Wednesday night, containing nearly 30 pages of closely printed matter, describing this batch of prospective legislation.

Postscript.

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO SIR R. PEEL.—The statements in the papers respecting her Majesty's proposed visits to Staffordshire and Derbyshire are not correct. We believe that it is her Majesty's intention to honour Sir Robert Peel with a visit at his residence at Drayton manor on Tuesday, the 28th instant. Her Majesty will proceed from Windsor castle to Watford, and thence by railway to Drayton manor, to remain till Friday, the 1st of December, when her Majesty will go on a visit to his grace the Duke of Devonshire. On Monday the 4th of Dec., the Queen will honour the Duke of Rutland with a visit to Belvoir castle, and return to Windsor castle on the 7th. Her Majesty will be accompanied by his Royal Highness Prince Albert; and we learn that her Majesty the Queen Dowager has signified to Sir Robert Peel her intention to join the royal party at Drayton manor on the 29th instant.—*Standard.*

ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.—The first lecture on establishments was last night delivered by Mr John Burnet, independent minister, at the Borough road chapel, Southwark. The subject was, "The Nature of Ecclesiastical Establishments." Mr Burnet spoke of the worldly character of religious establishments; and that they were persecuting, usurping, and anti-christian institutions. The attendance was large, and of the highest respectability. The next lecture, we see by an advertisement in our columns, will be delivered by Dr Bennett, on "The History of Ecclesiastical Establishments."

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.—It is said in the city, that Lord Aberdeen has declined to enter into any negotiation with the Mexican minister, Mr Murphy, on the subject of the affront lately offered to the British flag, and that he intends sending out a new minister to Mexico, in a frigate, which will call at Jamaica, whence the minister will take a squadron down with him to the Mexican coast, and require an apology for the affront before landing.—*Times.*

AMERICAN DEBT.—Sydney Smith has once more taken up his pen to reply to General Duff Green on the subject of repudiation. His letter appears in this morning's *Chronicle*; and, as we have not room to insert it entire in this week's paper, we give the following extract:—

Having been unwell for some days past, I have had no opportunity of paying my respects to General Duff Green, who (whatever be his other merits) has certainly not shown himself a Washington in defence of his country. The General demands, with a beautiful simplicity, "Whence this morbid hatred of America?" But this question, all affecting as it is, is stolen from Pilpay's fable's ... "A fox," says Pilpay, "caught by the leg in a trap near the farm-yard, uttered the most piercing cries of distress; forthwith all the birds of the yard gathered round him, and seemed to delight in his misfortune; hens chuckled, geese hissed, ducks quacked, and chantecler, with shrill cockadoodles, rent the air. 'Whence,' said the fox, stepping forward with infinite gravity, 'whence this morbid hatred of the fox?' What have I done? Whom have I injured? I am overwhelmed with astonishment at these symptoms of aversion.' 'Oh, you old villain,' the poultry exclaimed, 'where are our ducklings? where are our goslings? did not I see you running away yesterday with my mother in your mouth? did not you eat up all my relations last week? you ought to die the worst of deaths—to be pecked into a thousand pieces!'" Now hence, General Green, comes the morbid hatred of America, as you term it. Because her conduct has been predatory; because she has ruined so many helpless children, so many miserable women, so many aged men; because she has disturbed the order of the world, and rifled those sacred treasures which human virtue had hoarded for human misery. Why is such hatred morbid? Why, is it not just, inevitable, innate? why, is it not disgraceful to want it? why, is it not honourable to feel it?

SALISBURY ELECTION.—The interest manifested in this election may be judged of from the fact of the morning papers having long communications from "our own reporter." It seems that the affair is looked upon in so serious a light by government, that they are, it is said, determined to win at all risks. The Hon. Sidney Herbert, secretary to the admiralty, is in the city using his powerful influence in the tory interest. The *Times* reporter says:—

"The League people have kept up their meetings, and continued to canvass the voters on behalf of Mr Bouverie, who is most untiring in his personal efforts, and, it is now said, is growing in favour with the constituency of this city. Mr Baring Wall, M.P., has also been actively engaged in soliciting votes for Mr Bouverie. I have this morning heard that Mr Brodie, one of the late members for this city, a whig, who it was expected would be neutral upon this occasion, and has been so up to this time, is now taking an active part on behalf of Mr Bouverie; and it is said that he possesses influence enough to throw forty-four votes into the scale. Should this be true, the effect will be seriously felt by the conservatives. At the same time, Mr Campbell and his friends speak in the most positive manner with regard to the result. They seem certain of success, and to have no anxiety about the matter."

Meanwhile fifty policemen from London have been ordered down, and a troop of cavalry is to be stationed at Wilton, three miles from Salisbury, to prevent rioting.

THE LOSS OF THE MEMNON.—We have much pleasure in announcing, that Lieutenant Edward Walter Agar and Miss Dalzell (passengers), with the remainder of the crew of the ill-fated Memnon, arrived safely at Aden on the 9th of September. A letter received by the last mail from Lieut. Agar, dated "Aden, Sept. 13," after describing their dreadful sufferings from thirst and the burning heat of the sun, &c., confirmatory of the accounts already published in the *Times* of the 6th instant, goes on to state, that on the 2nd, at noon, to Hon. Company's brig of war Tigris (to all of them a truly welcome sight) was seen rounding the Hullooolla point, with the preconcerted signal flying. About sunset she anchored; the unfortunate sufferers were speedily on board, and in a few days happily landed at Aden.—*Times.*

IRELAND.

THE STATE TRIALS.—In the court of Queen's Bench, on Monday, rejoinders in demurrer were handed in on behalf of the defendants, but the Attorney-general objected to receive them on the ground of informality. He, however, consented to their being handed in *de bene esse*, but he called upon the court to order that the rejoinder in demurrer should be argued on Tuesday. A long discussion ensued; Mr Sheil averring that the case of Lord Hawarden v. Duffy was fixed for that day, and the counsel for the traversers said that they were not prepared with a brief, and would be obliged to sit up all night to prepare them. The Chief Justice, however, finally decided that he should call for the case on Tuesday.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the meeting on Monday, Mr O'Connell made a long speech in praise of the

Roman catholic bishops, for their repudiation of a state endowment. The *Times* sneered at him (Mr O'Connell) for saying that £600,000 would be too little, and that it should be a million, and said, "Well, let it be a million" [cheers and laughter]. Thus a million pounds sterling was held out to the catholic clergy, and they refused it. The tories said to them, "Here's a million for you. You are preachers of rebellion. Had you been quiet, loyal men, we should never have thought of paying you." That was the way to make rebels [cheers and laughter]. "As long as you are good you shall have nothing; become rebels, and you shall have a large income" [laughter]. He then moved the following resolutions:—

"Resolved, that we, the catholic members of the Loyal National Repeal association, have read, with the profoundest respect and the most dutiful acquiescence, the resolutions adopted at the meeting of our revered archbishops and bishops, the sacred and venerated hierarchy of the catholic church in Ireland. These most reverend and very reverend prelates possess our entire veneration, respect, and Christian submission to their apostolic authority.

"That the catholic laity of Ireland hold in the utmost abhorrence any attempt to influence our venerated clergy by tendering to them the filthy mammon of this world. That the laity will universally support and uphold them in their rejection of any species of state provision, firmly convinced, as they are, that the control of the church by the state is calculated only to degrade and contaminate the sacred offices of religion, to diminish the utility of the clergy, and to introduce hirelings into the place of the sainted pastors of faithful flocks.

"That the catholic laity of Ireland, who never deserted their venerated clergy, even in the midst of pains, penalties, confiscations, and death, gratefully acknowledge that their clergy (although against them persecutions most vehemently raged) never deserted their faithful followers; and they are convinced that all the bribes of England could not purchase off one single catholic clergyman from the people throughout this entire isle."

Dr Gray proposed a resolution on behalf of the protestant members of the association, expressing their approbation of the conduct of the Roman Catholic hierarchy with regard to a state provision. He felt degraded as a protestant that he could not express himself in the same terms of his own clergy [cheers]. Mr Gordon dissented from some of the views expressed with regard to a state provision for the Roman catholic church, but approved of glebe endowments. Mr O'Connell coincided with him in opinion as to the propriety of the Roman catholic clergy having glebes to be passed from one to the other, but did not wish protestants to pay for them. He could alter the act in half an hour, so that priests could regularly convey glebes to their successors. About 3 o'clock an intimation was conveyed to Mr O'Connell, which the learned gentleman, who was about to speak at the time, immediately acted on by buttoning up his collar, and saying, "I wish to state, it is absolutely necessary for me to go to the court for half an hour; I'll be back again as soon as possible" [laughter]. Mr D. O'Connell, jun., asked if Mr Ray would have to go? Mr O'Connell—Oh! all the conspirators [laughter]. Those of the "nine" who were present then left the hall, and proceeded to the court of Queen's Bench. Mr O'Connell (who returned in about an hour), having addressed the meeting on the subject of a federal parliament, in reply to an address from Mr Sturge, announced the weekly rent to be £932 19s. 6d.

THE O'CONNELL TRIBUTE.—The official account of the Dublin collection published on Monday morning, gives the amount at £4,050. Some country returns show an increase fully equal to that in Dublin.

ENFORCEMENT OF POOR RATE.—The *Galway Vindicator* says:—"Her Majesty's war steamers the *Dee* and *Comet* arrived here in port on Tuesday night, and have been detained making arrangements for taking on board the following formidable force, for the protection of the collector of poor rates along our western coast, and part of Connemara."

SPAIN.—The Paris papers of Monday contain the following telegraphic despatch:—

"BAYONNE, Nov. 18.

"The Consul of France at Corunna writes, under date the 12th inst., that on the morning of the 11th the insurgents of Vigo submitted unconditionally. The submission of Vigo, and the declaration of the Queen's majority, had produced the most lively satisfaction in Corunna."

The Montrose steamer brings information that Iriarte and his friends, who had fled into Portugal, had been ordered by the Lisbon government to proceed to Braga, 40 miles north of Oporto, as their place of residence. Order was established throughout Galicia; the good offices of the British Consul were very successful in preventing excesses and persecutions. There had been undoubted supplies of arms, ammunition, and money, sent out by Espartero's adherents in London to the northern and southern coasts of Spain. Accounts from Madrid of the 14th inst. state, that in the morning of that day General Narvaez proceeded to the palace, and presented to the Queen his resignation of the post of Captain-general of New Castile. The motives for this resolution were not exactly known. His friends were strenuously exerting themselves to persuade him to recall his resignation.

FRANCE.—The discontent at the completion of the detached forts, or, as they are termed, bastiles, is said to be on the increase in Paris, and the desire of the government for the termination of those works is on the increase, as the period for the opening of the session of the Chambers approaches. The *Courrier Français* asserts, that "it is the intention of M. Thiers to attack, during the debate on the address, the extension given to the fortifications of Paris, particularly as respected the works in progress of execution at Vincennes and St Maur."

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.
There is no foreign wheat at market to-day, and the supply of English is small. Very little business doing, at Monday's prices.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. H." declined.

"J. Hope." We stated our opinion merely, leaving other parties at full liberty to judge for themselves.

"W. P. J." would do much better to address his remarks to the *British Friend*, published at Glasgow.

"A Voluntary from Choice," next week.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22, 1843.

SUMMARY.

THE Irish state prosecutions are rapidly degenerating from tragedy into farce. Monster meetings, arraigned in a monster indictment, bid fair to have a monster trial. The machinery of law set in motion to convict Mr O'Connell, and his fellow-accused, of misdemeanor and conspiracy, proves too cumbrous for the intellectual power of the Irish Attorney-general. Every wheel of it cracks. Every stroke of the engine reveals some new obstruction. Poor Mr Smith blunders at every step, seemingly bewildered by the magnitude of his undertaking. A plea of abatement was put in last week by the traversers, on the ground that the witnesses examined by the grand jury were not sworn in open court. This plea, if made good, will invalidate the bill of indictment upon which trial is proposed to be had, and render necessary a recommencement of proceedings. The prospect of being compelled to begin afresh, fired the Attorney-general with more than his usual fierceness, and he opposed the reception of the plea by the court, on grounds both technical and general. His opposition, however, was fruitless. The court received and filed the plea, which will now have to be argued at length. The Crown officer demurred, but in putting in his demurral committed another mistake, which, however, he has time to rectify without delaying subsequent proceedings. The general opinion of the bar is that the plea of abatement is sound, and will be sustained by the court. The probability is that government will be foiled with its own weapon, and that, after a series of petty and mortifying defeats, it will be compelled to abandon the prosecutions altogether. Mr O'Connell, at all events, will have little reason to regret the blow aimed at his power. To say nothing of the enormous increase of political influence he has thereby gained, it appears from the returns already given in, that "the O'Connell tribute" will be trebled in amount. In truth, the government would seem to be aware that it must have recourse to other measures for the pacification of Ireland. Hence its commission to inquire into the modes of land tenure—and hence, we suppose, if rumour may be relied on, its determination to take the catholic priesthood into state pay—a project on which we have given our sentiments in another column.

The Anti-corn-law League have commenced their collection of the £100,000. The first effort was appropriately made at Manchester. In about one hour £12,000 and upwards were subscribed, with a spontaneous zeal which augurs well for the success of this bold experiment. This magnificent sum—an eighth of the amount required, has since been increased to £14,133—the contribution to the fund, of Manchester and its immediate neighbourhood alone. Well may the *Times* of Monday recognise the League as "a great fact." Should Salisbury give an electoral verdict in its favour, as some of its experienced friends anticipate, it will become all but irresistible. The day of its greatest power, however, will be the day of its greatest danger. Its indomitable will must yet be tested by a ministerial proposition of a moderate fixed duty. Upon its conduct in reference to any such offer, its ultimate success will wholly depend. Numbers who now swell its retinue will desert and go over; but if its leaders remain firm and united, display no wavering of purpose, no slackening in their zeal, the country will back them, and a somewhat later, but a more decisive and glorious, triumph will be theirs.

The report of the proceedings of the Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union, contained in our columns this week, will be read with interest. Steps are being taken to stir up the most hopeful constituencies to active co-operation for the furtherance of the plan propounded by Mr Sharman Crawford. Electors and non-electors are to be invited separately to memorialise their representatives, with a view to insure their practical concurrence with the member for Rochdale, in moving

amendments upon motions for granting supplies, until the grievances of the people have been heard and redressed. It is proposed that these memorials shall be presented to the respective members by delegates specially appointed in each case, and that the delegates should be in London for this purpose at the opening of parliament, and consult together as to the best means for promoting the objects of the memorialists. The boroughs most likely to take the lead in this movement are to be visited by a deputation from the Council, whose endeavours will immediately be directed to the carrying out of the foregoing suggestions. We need hardly say that we hail with satisfaction this renewed movement on behalf of the principles we advocate. We trust it will be vigorously pushed by the Council, and promptly seconded by existing local associations.

We take the liberty of calling the attention of our readers to the able letter of Mr Hume, addressed to the chairman of the Scottish Central Board of dissenters, and referred to in the article below. A brief report, likewise, of a meeting of dissenters at Liverpool, demands a word or two of comment. A correspondent hints to us that that meeting was likely to serve, if not intended for, the express purpose of damping the exertions of those in Liverpool, friendly to the proposed anti-state-church convention. We have received letters from other places to the same effect. We agree with Dr Cox that, if proofs were given of a sincere and hearty movement towards a separation of church and state, friends in the midland counties and other places, who desire a convention, would be glad to co-operate. But we may state at once, and that explicitly, that they are not likely to concur in the establishment of a society in London based upon any principle whatever, and much less, such a milk and water one as that carried at the Liverpool meeting. Their express object in seeking a convention is to create a central power in which all earnest parties can confide. Such a power can only be appointed by fairly chosen delegates, convened in public assembly. We have had already too many sham movements. This time it behoves us to take care that no professions whatever be allowed to divert the rising zeal of nonconformists into an unwholesome swamp.

THE NEW TACK, AND THE ROCK AHEAD.

FROM the elaborate articles which have recently appeared in the *Times*, and several written in a similar strain, but of far inferior ability, which occupy the columns of other daily papers—from a direct statement made by Mr Hume, in his letter to the Chairman of the Scottish Central Board of Dissenters—and from the recent vote of the Roman catholic hierarchy of Ireland, the consequence, we are told by a Belfast paper, of a communication made to them by the government—our fears, expressed towards the close of last session, are soon, we judge, likely to be realised, and the great measure of the session to come, will be a large pecuniary provision for the Irish priesthood. We thought the agreement of both parties in this policy, so remarkably indicated by the last debate on Irish affairs in the house of Lords, ominous of the future movements of the oligarchy. Appearances, on every hand, strengthen our suspicions. The measure has probably been determined upon, and the details necessary to render it complete, only remain to be considered. In this case, as in that of the Factories bill, both Houses of parliament will be but too happy to execute the *flat* of her Majesty's administration—and nothing but the most unequivocal exhibition of public disapproval will be likely to prevent the setting up of a new ecclesiastical establishment.

The danger being thus imminent, it becomes us, in all prudence, to look it boldly in the face. If we let this evil overtake us unawares, the fault and the folly will be our own. We have had fair warning. Nothing but the most puerile and contemptible resolution to shut our eyes to probabilities we would fain disbelieve, can keep us in ignorance of the mischief meditated. Ere those probabilities have ripened into certainty, it behoves us to concert our opposition—to base it upon sound principle—to make it explicit, intelligible, unmistakeable—and, if possible, to organise such force as we possess, with a view to its prompt and efficient action when the day of trial shall come round.

Happily, the object of the contemplated arrangement is too clear for sophistry to conceal. In the present case, our rulers are precluded by their own protestant professions, by their whole past policy, and by the events which have driven them upon so desperate a remedy, from cloaking their designs under the hypocritical plea of concern for the spiritual well-being of the people. This has served them, to an extent not to be measured, in relation to the episcopal and the presbyterian establishments. It will not avail them now. The *Times* feels this, and therefore, with an effrontery peculiarly characteristic of "the leading journal of Europe," it avows, without an attempt at mystification, the sole design of the party now in power.

"Without much additional proof on our part, the

readers of the *Times* will readily believe that it is from no reverence for popery, and as little affection for its priesthood, we have felt called upon to recommend the latter as proper objects for a pecuniary provision from the state. In the guise of a provision, it is in fact a precaution we would establish—a pledge of their good behaviour, and a bounty as well upon their own loyal demeanour, as on their inculcation of a loyal spirit in their parishioners. We would transform them from public disturbers into a stipendiary magistracy for maintaining the Queen's peace among their flocks; and, speaking frankly, it is fair to state that we think it no unworthy purpose to render them, or their religion, by means not criminal, as innocuous as may be to the laws, the constitution, and political society of the empire."

The end, then, of recognising the Roman catholic priesthood of Ireland "as proper objects for a pecuniary provision from the state," is to separate the people from their spiritual guides—to convert the latter, by corrupt influence, into willing tools for perpetuating the slavery of the former—to render injustice safe by feeding the watch-dogs which, until now, have given tongue to discontent—not to redress grievances, but to smother them by ecclesiastical influence—not to do right, but to make it feasible to do wrong with impunity. "The priests well know," says the *Times*, "that, as in most cases, so in theirs, a gilded fetter would be no bad bond of peace." Here, we repeat, we have in a few words the core of this new project. It is set on foot to ease an oppressive government of the inconvenience of popular agitation, provoked by unqualified and uninterrupted tyranny. The anomaly of the Irish protestant establishment is to be preserved in its present bloated dimensions at all hazards; the cruelties of absentee landlordism are to remain substantially unredressed; Norman lust of power and pelf is to ride roughshod, as now and of yore, over Celtic poverty and dependence; the few are to extract their luxuries from the miseries of the many; Ireland is to lie prostrate, a conquered country, at the feet of a proud aristocracy—to be spoiled of all which she can or does esteem valuable; and with a view to this—to make the enormity safe to the party who derive their gains from it, the people of this country are to be compelled to pay a handsome annual bribe to the priesthood. Already we bear the expense of nearly forty thousand rank and file, and submit to the costliness of a vice-regal government, to enable a section of the aristocracy to enjoy the advantages of property without performing its duties. Forty thousand soldiers, however, will not suffice to shield these idlers from the dangers of their own false position. We must draw our purse strings once more, to redeem them from the obligations imposed upon them by providential laws—and this time we are, for their sakes, to corrupt the Irish clergy, that "their gilded fetter may be a bond of peace."

We are wont to contemplate with dread a military despotism—and it is not to be denied that government by the naked sabre is an awful infliction upon humanity. But the oligarchy which now sways the destiny of this country are resolved to put to the proof an experiment, the consequences of which may well be apprehended with far greater horror—they are aiming to undermine every safeguard of liberty by the agency of a stipendiary corps of priests. It matters not to them what may be the theological creed of the sects whose spiritual guides they bribe into connivance with, or participation of, their selfish designs. Other things being equal, the more unlike to Christianity the doctrines professed, the better they are found to answer the purpose. Protestantism, save for the mass of vested interests which have gathered around it, is not a whit more valuable in their estimation, than the intensest popery. This modern plan, however—or, more properly, this return to the old plan, of governing nations by a corrupted priesthood, is pregnant with mischiefs infinitely more terrible than those produced by military despotism. The last touches man directly in his body and his circumstances only, fences round his will, harasses his affections, restricts his movements, imprisons, but does not necessarily enslave, him. The first, in so far as it is successful, touches the man himself, blinds his understanding, vitiates his inclination, debases his heart, humbles him into the willing tool of falsehood enthroned on power, and having thus despised its victim of his manhood, sets him at liberty from many external restraints, confident in the potency of the drug administered to him, to keep him quiet under wrong. The one shuts up a reluctant people within the walls of tyrannical laws—the other stupifies and intoxicates them, rendering it unnecessary to mount guard on those walls, or to keep them in constant repair. This is a drag-net to catch and destroy its victims—that poisons the pool in which they exist. A priest-ridden nation is not only unhappy, but despicable. Its vitality is suspended. Its bones are rotten. Its strength is gone. In the heart of it, which should be the palace of all noble aspirations and manly resolves, a grinning demon of delusion holds his court; and there, where one looked to see the dignity of human nature, were it even dignity in chains, nothing is to be discerned but reeling intelligence, high talents debasing themselves to vilest purposes, and every attribute which distinguishes man from the brute, staggering or prostrate at the

foot of an incarnate lie. Better is it, in our judgment, that poor Ireland should be a raving madman, filling all souls with present terror, than that it should sit on the earth a harmless, chattering, moping, slavering idiot. May Heaven, in mercy to that unhappy country, avert from her so unspeakable a calamity!

What may be the cost of this experiment we shall not now trouble ourselves to conjecture. It is but too likely, that we shall be called upon again and again to revert to this topic. The question will, doubtless, provoke strong opposition—opposition from many and various quarters. It was our hope that by this time, dissenters at least would, through the medium of delegates assembled in convention, have spoken out upon the principle of religious establishments, whatever might be the theological creed of the body favoured by the state. In this expectation we are disappointed. We are unwilling to indulge in another—otherwise we might look forward to the upraising of the most apathetic, and the energetic action of the most slothful, whenever the scheme shall be authoritatively announced. But we have well nigh bid farewell to hopes, anticipating that, henceforth, we shall be allowed no companionship but with stern and uncompromising duties. In this spirit, we urge the friends of an anti-state-church convention to proceed with their original design. Time, and the exigency of affairs will soon be at hand to justify their decision. The new tack, and the rocks ahead, will alarm hundreds into a concurrence, who now hold back in the vain expectation that quiescence and safety are not incompatible.

THE SUFFRAGE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING.

ONE of our correspondents, anxious for a searching investigation of every plea which may be put on record in bar of complete suffrage, sends us the following objection, returned to him as an answer to an application to a friend to join the Union:—"It seems to me that the Suffrage Union expect, from the universal extension of political power, fruits which such extension alone is not calculated to produce, unless accompanied by that moral renovation of character which I regard as the only certain basis of social, as it is of individual, improvement." The objection thus concisely stated is by no means uncommon. It seldom, indeed, comes up in this distinct and tangible form. It is usually more evasive—peeps through some eyelet-hole, rather than shows its own face. It is not often that we meet with it as a simple, unmixed concretion. More ordinarily it is found blended with, and partially disguised by, other forms of assertion. Here, however, it stands forth in its native purity, and in this state may be dealt with more easily and more successfully. Let us, then, bestow upon it a few moments' examination.

We know not from what sentiment, expressed or sanctioned by the Complete Suffrage Union, this gentleman has gathered his opinion of their expectations. Sure we are that none of those who take a prominent part in the agitation of this question regard the suffrage as "a certain basis of social improvement," apart from "a moral renovation of character." Language may have been employed, here and there, by indiscreet advocates, which ascribed to the extension of political power results which nothing but the spread of practical Christianity can produce. The Union can hardly be responsible for all these *escapades*. Their own solemn convictions have been placed upon record. In their tract, entitled "Rise and Progress of the Complete Suffrage Movement," reprinted from the *Eclectic Review*, we find the following passage, which one would suppose might have sufficed to shield them from the charge now preferred against them:—

"One word more, and we have done. The scope of our remarks will be entirely misapprehended, should our readers impute to us an opinion that society is to be regenerated by political institutions. Were complete suffrage adopted to-morrow, men's hearts, habits, pursuits, beliefs, would still be what they are. It belongs not to civil government to purge the human mind of its natural grossness, to destroy its selfishness, or to open to it the fountains of true happiness. Organic change, even the most searching and complete, will assuredly fail to touch the evil that is in man. It will make him neither virtuous nor blest. Christianity alone is competent to grapple with and to subdue, to exalt and to refine, our common nature. But complete suffrage may, and we verily believe will, remove from between Christianity and the people of this empire many conventional and artificial barriers. It will tend to break down the spirit of *caste*, than which nothing is more inimical to the triumphs of revealed truth. It will allay the excitement and exasperation of party politics. It will put an end to monopolies, which, like a chain of forts, have, in this country, from time immemorial obstructed the free march of the religion of Jesus. It will sweep out of the way a system of ecclesiastical sanctity and priestly mediation, the worldly emoluments and legal power of whose official agents and abettors have always stood opposed to the spread of genuine piety."

Thus far in vindication of the Union. If anything were required to make it complete, we might notice the fact that it lays peculiar stress upon the use of none but Christian means for the attainment of its object—that it earnestly inculcates sobriety—that it solemnly protests against a resort to any and every species of violence—and that its only

weapons have been argument and moral suasion, its only appeals have been made to reason, justice, and religion. Men proceeding in this spirit cannot fairly be said to underrate moral renovation as the basis of social improvement.

Passing, now, from this collateral topic, to the body of the objection, our readers can hardly fail to observe that, if valid for anything, it is valid for a great deal more than a condemnation of the complete suffrage agitation. It equally applies to the extension of political power in any direction, and to a change of our political institutions of every kind. It is pre-eminently conservative in character. It is put forward as a reason for not joining the complete suffrage movement, but in truth it is a reason for standing aloof from every movement other than such as aim directly at "moral renovation."

We shall not content ourselves, however, with a mere *ad hominem* reply. We wish to put the whole question upon a broader basis. We shall admit the absolute necessity of moral renovation to social as well as individual improvement. That admission, however, we beg to indorse with one inquiry. How comes it that the staple of moral character in this country, among all classes, is, at the present moment, so inferior? We have an industrious population, and industry is not legitimately and necessarily affianced to immorality. We have amongst us all the means of renovation in tolerable abundance—truth of the highest class, and active agencies to bring it in contact with the people. The inhabitants of this country, as compared with those of America, for instance, are under no disadvantages as it respects original elements of character, influences of climate, force of custom, power of social habits, or prevalence of heretical opinions. In many of these particulars, indeed, they may claim the superiority. How does it happen, then, that moral improvement proceeds here so slow and uneven a pace? What is the obstacle in the way? To this question we shall endeavour to furnish the outline of an answer.

Artificial, conventional, political impediments, may do much to stay the march of moral renovation, and, in Great Britain and Ireland, they constitute almost insuperable obstacles to its larger triumphs. Almost all the evils with which it has to contend will be found to have their roots in our aristocratic system of government. First and foremost stands the economical condition of the people. Doomed by monopoly to toil incessantly from earliest morn till midnight to earn a scanty and precarious subsistence—deprived, by the hard necessity of their lot, of time for mental or religious cultivation—compelled, for the most part, to see few other phases of human nature than those which have a malign aspect upon themselves—are they in a favourable position for heeding the maxims of morality, or for opening their hearts to the purifying influences of religious truth? Look next at their social *status*. They are treated with disrespect by being excluded from the common rights of citizenship. Their love of independence is broken down. A brand of infamy is set upon them. They are dealt with as men of an inferior class. Reverence for themselves is hereby destroyed. Character becomes a matter of minor importance—and, habituated to a position of marked inferiority, they seek the only solace left open to them, in the indulgence of the lower appetites and passions. Contemplate, moreover, their ignorance. Who is responsible for it? Privation and incessant labour, imposed upon them by aristocratic legislation, and opposition to every vigorous and liberal effort to educate them persisted in by an aristocratic clergy. Mark, in fine, the relation in which they stand to religious truth. Is it not notorious that the established church stands between them and it, endeavouring by arrogant assumptions, by misrepresentation, by worldliness of life, by intimidation and petty persecution, to prevent them from feeling the force of its operation? We say nothing of the demoralisation produced by the most assiduous culture of the war spirit—nothing of the vices introduced and exemplified by aristocratic idlers—nothing of the crimes created and the bad habits gendered by game laws, excise laws, trespass laws, and others. But we here submit enough to show, that political institutions, as they exist in this empire, terribly obstruct the advances of "moral renovation."

These political impediments to "social and individual improvement," are political, and can only be removed by political power. Complete suffrage will compass this—it does not profess to compass aught beyond it. It is not proposed as a means to universal happiness. Political institutions are not the proper agents for working out great moral and religious results. If, however, the fundamental change we propose, is but calculated to sweep away existing artificial obstacles to improvement—to give to truth "a free stage and no favour"—to level the walls and fill up the moats, behind which national character has been shielded against the approaches of earnest Christianity—and we contend it is—then, it seems to us that no man is justified in refusing to seek it because it cannot go further—because it cannot accomplish ends which religion only can attain.

THE COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION AND THE NONCONFORMIST.

We give insertion, this week, with much pleasure, to a letter, occasioned by an article in our last number, and signed by Joseph Sturge, the president of the Complete Suffrage Union. It will not be necessary to inform our stated readers that the greater portion of it has our cordial concurrence. We had repeatedly stated, and we are glad to have it authoritatively reiterated by Mr Sturge, that the Council are not responsible for the sentiments advocated in this paper, and that "the connexion between the Council of the Union and the *Nonconformist* is limited to the publication by the latter of their official intelligence." Our article, we can truly affirm, was not intended "to discourage the friends of an equality of political rights," but to stimulate them to more active exertion. We expressly disclaimed all design of reflecting discredit upon any party, and we stated our belief that the Council might be in possession of facts, which would explain, if not justify, their present seeming quiescence. We declared our "full confidence in the integrity, the sincerity, and the zeal, of those upon whom the conduct of this movement devolves." In former articles we have expressed, in no equivocal terms, our approbation of Mr Sharman Crawford's plan of parliamentary agitation for the forthcoming session: and that, too, upon the ground of its constituting a basis of union for all parties who are earnest in seeking reform, whether religious, civil, or commercial. We agree that the "progress of a great question is not always indicated by the number or excitement of public meetings in its favour," and to this opinion we have given frequent utterance. We are not insensible to the importance of "securing the cordial co-operation of that portion of the community above all others, who take up the subject on Christian principle." We have ourselves, as we ought to have, great faith in "the silent labours of the pen," and we regard them as superior in efficacy to great public demonstrations, "important as these are when judiciously and opportunely resorted to." It will be seen, therefore, that between ourselves and the Council, there is no great difference of opinion as to the character of the means to be employed for the attainment of our common end.

We may state, however, with frankness, what have been our wishes, and wherein we could have hailed more vigorous efforts on the part of the Union. Whilst we by no means undervalue parliamentary discussion as well adapted to sow the seeds of truth in the minds of electors, we have been most anxious to see some preparatory arrangements for securing the crop whenever it shall spring up. We have incessantly urged our opinion, that our business is to enlighten accessible constituencies. As a means to this important result, we regard with interest and hope the plan of parliamentary agitation proposed by the honourable member for Rochdale. But this means we look upon as far from sufficient. The diffusion of a knowledge of sound principles by tract distribution, by lectures, and by other unostentatious methods of conveying political instruction, appears to us to be worthy of increased attention and more strenuous effort, and to constitute a machinery which, by wise arrangement, constant superintendence, and persevering zeal, may be made to tell with tenfold effect upon the public mind. We are aware that this cannot be done without considerable expense, and therefore we hold that an effort for raising a central fund might be very properly proposed, and would be promptly responded to. It is not to the character of the means employed, but to the very small scale, and somewhat languid exercise of them, that we object.

We should be the last to damp the energies of those who are now "steadily labouring at the oar." We know too much, by personal experience, of the depressing influences to which they are exposed. We take no credit to ourselves for having been, even before the present movement was commenced, week after week, unremittingly at our post. We need not profess our undiminished interest in this great cause, but may cheerfully leave our labours to speak for themselves. If, occasionally, we deem it incumbent upon us to adopt a strain of remark which our fellow labourers could wish to have been avoided, we trust neither they nor our readers need from us any assurances that the object at which we aim is the furtherance of the movement. We may suggest, in vindication of ourselves, that the *Nonconformist* has to bear the brunt of almost every unworthy reflection thrown out against the friends of equal political rights by those who oppose them—that upon it has, until recently, devolved the responsibility of vindicating every step taken by the Council, and of refuting every argument thrown across its path. Such being our position, some latitude must be allowed us, if, in anxiety to discharge our own consciences, we venture at times to differ from our best friends. What we feel, we have been accustomed freely to express, and we believe that our assiduity and perseverance in unfolding and enforcing the principles of complete suffrage will protect us from any imputation of unworthy motives.

STATE OF PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

(From the *Complete Suffrage Almanack* for 1844.)
We have compiled the following summary of the population and numbers of electors:—

INEQUALITY AND INADEQUACY OF THE REPRESENTATION.

Country.	Members.	Population.	Males above 20 Years of Age.	Number of Electors.	Proportion of electors to adult pop. per cent.
England.	471	14,995,138	3,836,907	771,840	20
Wales.	29	911,603	231,382	47,772	20
Scotland.	53	2,620,148	624,599	82,699	13
Ireland.	105	8,175,238	2,043,809	109,995	5
	658	26,702,163	6,736,697	1,012,286	Aver. 15

It thus appears that there were upwards of one million electors on the register in the year 1840. It must, however, be recollected that a large proportion of the electoral constituencies, about one quarter, never exercise the franchise, so that the real effective electors of the United Kingdom could not then be estimated at more than 800,000. There is much doubt whether the number of electors has been much increased since that period, when we take into consideration the severe distress that has, for the last few years, visited all classes, except the higher, and the wholesale disfranchisement that has been going on in Ireland. If, therefore, we take the total number of electors on the register in 1840, as representing the whole of the electors who would now exercise the franchise, it will, probably, be rather over than under the mark.

It will hence appear that one person out of about every seven male adults is represented in the house of Commons—that is to say, that out of the 6,736,697 male adult population of the country, 6,724,411 are taxed by the state without having a voice in the making of its laws!

By analysing the list of constituencies, we arrive at still more startling results. Thus, in England, Wales, and Scotland, which return 592 members, 67 of the constituencies number less than 500 persons; 145 less than 1,000; and 209 less than 2,000. Accordingly, nearly one half the representatives of cities and boroughs of England, Wales, and Scotland, are returned by about 100,000 constituents. Nor is this all. We find that, in the United Kingdom, 232 members represent about 220,000; and thus it may fairly be calculated that, out of the 658 members of the house of Commons, 330 of them—or a clear majority—are returned by less than 300,000 persons. The destinies of this country, therefore, are actually confided to the hands of about one-third of the electoral body. In other words, *one twenty-third part* of the male adult population of this kingdom elect an absolute majority of that house, which not only exercises an omnipotent control over the liberties and property of all, but which is, according to the constitution of these realms, essentially "the people's house."

The following tables will throw some light on the relative power of constituencies and members. It will be observed that the one exactly balances the other in its amount of political power:—

Bo-	No. Popu-	Elec-	Boro-	No. of Popu-	Electors.
rroughs	lators	tors	Harwich	Mem bers	lation.
Finsbury ..	2 265,043	12,974	Harwich	2	3,730
London (city) ..	4 120,702	19,061	Calne	1	5,100
Marylebone	2 287,465	11,625	Ashburton	1	3,841
Tower Hamlets ..	2 419,730	13,551	Petersfield	1	5,201
Westminster ..	2 219,930	14,254	Reigate	1	4,415
Southwark	2 142,620	5,047	Theford	2	3,844
Lambeth ..	2 197,412	6,547	Westbury	1	7,454
Liverpool ..	2 282,656	14,970	Tavistock	2	6,075
Manchester	2 240,367	12,150	Lisburn	1	7,524
Leeds ..	2 151,063	6,182	Portarlington	1	3,160
Sheffield ..	2 109,597	4,451	Tralee	1	11,363
Birmingham ..	2 181,115	4,616	Dungannon	1	3,801
Bristol ..	2 123,188	10,878	Wilton	1	8,057
Edinburgh	2 132,977	5,346	Ennis	1	9,318
Glasgow ..	2 255,650	8,241	Kinsale	1	6,918
	32 3,129,518	149,899	Abingdon	1	5,502
	32 172,597	6,943	Andover	2	6,634
			Banbury	1	7,199
			Chippingham	2	6,606
			Dartmouth	1	4,663
			Droitwich	1	6,588
			Eye	1	7,347
			Frome	1	9,699
			Horsham	1	5,574
			Knaresborough	1	5,382
			Liskeard	1	4,226
			Lyme Regis	1	3,376

The above would give rise to almost endless comparisons, but we shall confine ourselves to the most glaring anomalies. It appears, then, that 27 boroughs, with a population of 172,597, and 6,943 electors, completely neutralises in the legislature the voice of all the most important towns in the kingdom, possessing an aggregate population of 3,129,518, or one-eighth of the entire inhabitants of Great Britain. We thus perceive the means by which the aristocracy is able to maintain their monopoly in opposition to the whole of the commercial and manufacturing community. These few insignificant boroughs are invested with eighteen times the amount of power, calculated according to the population (and the proportion of adult males is in nearly the same ratio), that is enjoyed by the cities and towns on the other side. It is also a no less startling fact that there are eight single constituencies, each returning but two representatives, which out-number the aggregate constituencies of the whole twenty-seven boroughs returning thirty-two members, while three of them more than double the number. It would take more than eighty-two constituencies, such as that of Harwich, which returns two members, to equal that of Liverpool, returning the same number. As we have before observed, 110,000 electors return upwards of 140 members; in the case before us, 149,899 electors return but thirty-two. Such is the delusive fraud palmed upon the people, in place of that to which

they have both a moral and constitutional right—a really national system of representation. Who, after a careful examination of the constitution of this branch of the legislature, can withhold assent from the sentiment of Mr Vincent, quoted above, that "the house of Commons is the house of the government, the clergy, the landowners—not of the people?"

ROYAL VISIT TO THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.—It is expected that on Monday next her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Duke and Duchess of Nemours, and suites, will proceed to Chatsworth house, Derbyshire, on visit to the Duke of Devonshire; proceeding on Wednesday, a distance of about 40 miles, to Drayton manor, where her Majesty and the Prince, with their illustrious guests, will sojourn until the following Friday, on which day the court is expected to return to Windsor castle.

Some question having been made as to the health of the Prince of Wales, the *Morning Chronicle* states, "on the best authority," that "the health of his Royal Highness is extremely good, and never was better at present."

Cabinet councils were held at the Foreign office on Thursday and Friday. On the latter day, after the council, Sir Robert Peel left his residence in Whitehall gardens, on a visit to the Queen at Windsor castle.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.—There is a report, which appears to be credible, that Mr Estcourt is about to resign the representation of the university of Oxford. Mr Gladstone is spoken of as the probable candidate for the vacant seat.

An extra *Gazette*, published on Saturday evening, contains the official appointment of the commission "for inquiring into the state of the law and practice in respect to the occupation of land in Ireland."

A London correspondent of the *Dublin Evening Post* says that Sir Robert Peel will positively propose a state provision for the Roman catholic clergy in Ireland, next session of parliament. The *Banner of Ulster* states, "We may add, on very good authority, that circulars were forwarded from government to the Roman catholic bishops, in which the general features of the scheme were stated; and their opinion was, we understand, requested."

We are happy to state, that by a recent convention arrangements between the Post-office of England and Holland have been established, which secure to both countries a liberal reduction of postage.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON NOT A COUNSEL LEARNED IN THE LAW.—A gentleman residing at Preston took upon himself, on the 11th inst., to inform his grace that a certain piece of land, formerly enjoyed by the writer's ancestors, was now in the possession of another party; and as the property originally belonged to the Crown, before it came into his family, he felt he was only discharging his duty in putting the noble duke in possession of the facts in order that the Crown might gain repossession of it. The answer is laconic and characteristic. It runs thus:—"London, November 15th, 1843. The Duke of Wellington has received Mr —'s letter of the 11th instant. Mr — should put to a counsel learned in the law the question he has asked of the Duke of Wellington. The duke is commander-in-chief of the army, not a counsel learned in the law."

CHELSEA OUT-PENSIONERS.—We are credibly informed that the out-pensioners are to be immediately placed in an efficient state of exercise, and are to be in a short time called out for permanent duty; previous to which it is expected that they will be inspected by the Duke of Wellington and other staff officers; and it is said that his grace will visit this town early in January, for the purpose of inspecting such as will be embodied for the district of Liverpool.—*Liverpool Mail*.

TRANSMISSION OF SERIAL PUBLICATIONS BY POST.—A question of considerable importance to the proprietors and publishers of literary and scientific periodical works has been brought under the postmaster-general's consideration, whose decision is considered adverse to the anticipated circulation of such works. It was presumed from the tenor of the treasury minute, defining the reduced scale of postal charge when the penny postage came into operation, that all papers, whether written or printed, would be entitled to transmission on payment of the respective postal charges according to weight. So far as regards all public "documents" the presumption was perfectly correct. The privilege, however, extends no further. An experiment was made with a new literary periodical, which, to avoid the inconvenience and delay incident to the pre-payment, was printed on a stamped sheet, similar to the ordinary newspapers. For the two first weeks the work in question was allowed to pass through the post; but the revenue not being equivalent to the trouble occasioned in this department, the postmaster-general, in the exercise of the discretion allowed him by the lords of the treasury, has interdicted the transmission of several publications of this description, upon the principle that the privilege derivable from the stamp is to be considered as available to newspapers only, which, as vehicles of political and general information, properly come within the definition of the treasury minutes.

ECLIPSES IN 1844.—There will be three eclipses of the sun and two of the moon. May 31, total eclipse of the moon, visible, 10h. 50m., p.m. June 15, a partial eclipse of the sun, invisible. November 6, a partial eclipse of the sun, invisible. November 24, a total eclipse of the moon, visible, 11h. 14m., p.m. December 9, partial eclipse of the sun, invisible.

METROPOLITAN.

SYMPATHY WITH IRELAND.—A public meeting of reformers was held on Monday night, at the National hall, High Holborn, to take into consideration the conduct of the government in attempting to stifle public opinion in Ireland by putting down the repeal meetings. Mr Watson was called to the chair, and addressed the meeting at great length upon the tyrannical conduct of the government towards Ireland, which he denounced as unconstitutional and oppressive in the extreme. He was followed by Dr Epps, Messrs Bainbridge, Parker, Statham, and others. Resolutions were passed condemnatory of the policy that put down the Clontarf meeting, and pledging all reformers to support by every means D. O'Connell, Esq., M.P., and the other repealers who are indicted with him, as men who have deserved well of their country and the United Kingdom; after which thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

METROPOLITAN DESTINATION.—A meeting of noblemen and gentlemen was held on Monday afternoon, in the theatre of the Western Literary and Scientific institution, Leicester square, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing an asylum for the reception of the houseless poor. The meeting was held pursuant to advertisements, and was numerously attended. Among the company present were Lord Dudley Stuart, Viscount Ranelagh, Sir De Lacy Evans, Sir Joseph Copley, John Abel Smith, Esq., Benjamin Bond Cabell, Esq., Sir H. Lushington, and many other distinguished and influential individuals. The chair was taken by Mr J. G. Ward, rector of St James's. The meeting was afterwards addressed by several gentlemen, and the following resolutions adopted:—Proposed by Lord Dudley Stuart, and seconded by Benjamin Bond Cabell, Esq., "That it is expedient to establish an institution for the relief of the houseless and destitute poor in the metropolis." It was then moved and seconded, "That a committee of twenty-one gentlemen be now formed to carry the foregoing resolution into effect, with power to add to their number," which was unanimously carried, and the committee appointed. It was further resolved, "That Benjamin Bond Cabell, Esq., be requested to act as treasurer, and that H. C. Arber, Esq., also be requested to act as honorary secretary." It was moved and seconded, "That it be an instruction to the committee to summon a meeting at Exeter hall, and request the Bishop of London to preside at the same." The thanks of the meeting were then unanimously carried to the chairman, and to H. C. Arber, Esq., for his active interest in calling the meeting. The meeting then separated.

OCCUPATION OF SCINDE.—A special general court of proprietors of East India stock was held on Friday, at the company's house in Leadenhall street, pursuant to requisition, for the purpose of taking into consideration certain resolutions relative to the late proceedings in Scinde. The chairman (Mr J. Cotton) said he had to acquaint the court that it was specially summoned in pursuance of a requisition signed by nine proprietors. The discussion was, however, nipped in the bud, by the Chairman presenting the following resolution:—"That the court of directors be requested to lay before this court such papers as may have been communicated to them by the secret committee, regarding the proceedings which have taken place in Scinde, and that the same be printed for the use of the proprietors." These papers not having been officially laid before them, the Chairman thought they could not with propriety proceed. After a long and rambling discussion, the motion for adjournment was carried.

ALDERMAN GIBBS AND THE ACCOUNTS.—Another meeting of the parishioners of St Stephen's, Walbrook, was held on Wednesday, in the vestry room of the church. Mr Rock said, as the question of these accounts was now in Chancery, it would be useless to continue the meetings. Alderman Gibbs had already appeared to a suit of his, and he should, therefore, move, "That this vestry did cordially approve of the conduct of Dr Croly, during the unfortunate contentions in which the parish had been and was at present engaged;" and that having been agreed to, he should then move that the vestry be adjourned until Wednesday, the 3rd of January next. Both these resolutions were subsequently carried. It appeared, from the statement of Dr Croly, that Alderman Gibbs states that he has no funds.

HANWELL PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.—From the fifth report of Dr Conolly, the resident physician of this institution, it appears that the number of admissions and that of recoveries has been greater, and that of the deaths smaller, than in the year preceding. The average daily number of patients in the asylum has been 986. Of the 180 admissions during the year, eleven have been cases of relapse; five in females, and six in males. Of the fifty-four cases of recovery, the cause of the malady was reported to be intemperance in twelve, four of whom were women. In one case alone, that of a German, seventy years of age, the cause assigned by his friends was teetotalism. He had been once a soldier, and it was thought by his friends that the sudden and total disuse of stimulating liquors had weakened his brain. He himself ascribed his deliverance from a chronic cough, and the recovery of the power to read small print, to his abstinence. He continued to abstain even from table beer whilst in the asylum, and his recovery took place in about five months from the commencement of the attack.

REFUSAL TO SWEAR.—At Clerkenwell, John Sergeant was charged with stealing eight books, the property of Joseph Allen, a bookseller, residing at No. 14, Chichester place, Gray's inn road. When Allen ascended the witness box the clerk presented

to him the New Testament that he might be sworn thereupon. Allen: I won't be sworn. Mr Combe: Why? Because I can tell the truth as well without it. But the law requires you should be sworn. But I have no respect for that book; I don't believe in it. You don't believe in the gospels then? No; nor in the Bible at all. I am an atheist. You disbelieve in the existence of God? Yes; or of anything else that I can't understand, because—Well, sir, we don't want any speeches, nor your evidence either—we shall have no atheist as a witness. I don't want to prosecute at all. You are bound in the sum of £100 to appear at the Old Bailey; and, if you don't appear there, you will have an Exchequer process issued against you for the recovery of your recognizances. Other witnesses who saw the prisoner remove the books came forward and gave their evidence, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

ST MARYLEBONE BANK FOR SAVINGS.—Comparative statement of progress, at specified periods, during the last seven years:—

	Open Deposit Accounts.	Sums invested with National Debt Commissioners.
On the 20th of Nov., 1837	9,947	155,910
1838	11,278	196,334
1839	11,935	223,353
1840	12,680	253,167
1841	13,004	266,407
1842	13,349	285,382
1843	14,130	319,496

RESPITE FOR THE CONVICT STOLZER.—An answer to the memorial that was on Tuesday forwarded to the Home Secretary, on behalf of William Stolzer, was on Friday evening received at Newgate, ordering a respite for the prisoner during her Majesty's pleasure.

SMUGGLING.—Edward Mourrand, Master-at-arms to the Archimède war steamer, which brought the Duke and Duchess of Nemours to this country, was fined £100 at the Thames police office, on Friday, for unlawfully conveying fifteen and a half pounds of tobacco to this country without paying duty. It appeared that he had been induced by some one on shore to exchange the tobacco for clothing. The man being detained, the first lieutenant, who was in court, wished him to be allowed to return to his ship, under proper security; but the magistrate said that the application had better be made, through the French ambassador, to the commissioners of customs.

THE LATE DUEL.—At Marylebone police office, on Friday, after the disposal of the night and other charges, Inspector Aggs, who conducted the inquiry relative to the death of the late Lieutenant-colonel Fawcett, informed Mr Long that Lieut. Munro and Lieut. Grant would surrender to take their trials at the next session of the Central Criminal court.

The *Globe* states that, under the vigilance of the police, the cruel practices in the knackers' yards have ceased; and that horses sold for slaughter are now better treated, and fed with hay and water.

ALARMING FIRES.—The commencement of a new week brought with it its now usual accompaniment—several destructive fires. Early on Monday morning, the extensive premises of Messrs Braham and Prestige, Belgrave square, Pimlico, were burnt down. The manufactory in which the conflagration originated was upwards of 180 feet in length, and one of the finest in Europe. No less than eight other buildings were damaged by the fire, to the amount of several thousand pounds.—On the same day, the premises of Mr J. Lewis, marine store dealer, Broad's buildings, Kent street, Borough, were consumed, together with a large amount of property.—Fires also broke out on the premises of Mr Roberts, Hemlock court, Carey street, Lincoln's inn fields, which was speedily extinguished; and at the Phoenix public house, Union street, Lisson grove, the roof of which was entirely consumed.

PROVINCIAL.

THE LEAGUE FUND MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

Yesterday week a numerous and highly influential meeting of the merchants, bankers, manufacturers, and traders of Manchester, was held in the Town hall of that town. It was convened for the purpose of aiding the future operations of the League; and such was the spirit evinced, that more than one-eighth of the hundred thousand pounds was subscribed on the spot—upwards of twelve thousand pounds being almost immediately put down.

R. H. GREG, Esq. was called to the chair, and having briefly run through the past proceedings of the League—which are tolerably familiar to most of our readers—he stated that the immediate object now in view was to raise £100,000 for future operations.

HENRY ASHWORTH, Esq., proposed the following resolution:—

"That we, the merchants, manufacturers, traders, and others, inhabitants of Manchester and its vicinity, do hereby repeat our protest against the laws which prohibit the free importation of grain and provisions, believing them to be most oppressive to the great mass of the people, and destructive alike of the true interests of agriculture and commerce; and relying upon the justice of our cause, and upon the intelligence and honesty of our countrymen, we declare most emphatically our determination not to relax in our exertions until those laws be entirely abolished."

And in doing so, he addressed the meeting at considerable length, on the national injury inflicted by the corn laws, and other commercial restrictions. A great deal had already been done by the League in enlightening the constituencies, and now they wanted the sum of £100,000, in order to arouse the electors to the nature and interest of the free-trade questions, that they might send to parliament a different set of men from many of the present representatives. The resolution was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Alderman KERSHAW, the late mayor of Manchester, moved the next resolution—

"That this meeting hereby express its high sense of the invaluable services which the National Anti-corn-law League has rendered to the cause of free trade; and in order to enable the Council to make renewed and increased exertions, a subscription in aid of the great fund, of £100,000, be now commenced, and that a committee be appointed to canvass for subscribers, in Manchester, and the surrounding districts."

J. CHADWICK, Esq., seconded the motion, and handed in £500, as his subscription, amidst tremendous cheering.

Mr COBDEN next addressed the meeting, and handed in £200, as his subscription. In the course of a telling speech he said—

"I have no doubt, any more than that I stand here, that this question is destined very soon to triumph [hear, and applause]. I don't anticipate ever making an appeal to the inhabitants of this locality again, to make such sacrifices of time, and money, and exertion, as they are about to do; nay, I have no objection to saying—that I know that I shall incur the displeasure of my friend (Mr Bright) in doing so—that I will never be a party to any future appeals to the people in this part of the country, to contribute funds to this object. I say, henceforth we will bring in a wider share of partnership in the matter of subscriptions; and I have no doubt that by your exertions now you will save us further trouble as to this question. I have no doubt, any more than that I exist, that the question is about to triumph, and I should doubt the force of truth and justice if I doubted it; and I am very sure that when the time does come for the principles of free trade to be established, the men of Manchester, and the neighbourhood of Manchester, will be regarded by the whole civilised world as the men who have been primarily the cause of the success of this great measure."

Alderman BROOKS, in the course of a humorous speech, said that when they met a year ago, for a similar purpose, he had made up his mind to give a hundred pounds, which he thought would be a great thing; when up came Mr Bright, and said he would give £300. Mr Bright had spoilt his (Mr Brooks's) hundred pounds, and, therefore, he made up his mind to pay three hundred a year. He had been ill a few days ago; and, whilst thinking over the matter at home, he had made up his mind to pay five hundred pounds this time [tremendous cheering]. He wished it to be apportioned this way:—He gave £300 to the League fund, and £200 to put down bribery and corruption. He would divide it into portions of £50 each, and would pay £50 for each of the four first men convicted of bribery; but he would give £100 for one of the aristocracy; and, alluding to Liverpool, he said he would give £100 if the ninety-ninth cousin of Lord Sandon were convicted of bribery.

Sir THOMAS POTTER briefly addressed the meeting.

ROBERT GARDENER, Esq., a conservative, next spoke against the sliding scale, and called attention to the present state of our commercial relations with China.

The resolution was then put and passed.

THE CHAIRMAN announced his own subscription as £500.

Mr BRIGHT addressed the meeting in his usual brilliant style, and subscribed £500.

The subscriptions then went on rapidly:—Messrs Munn and Co. subscribed £500. Robert Ashton, Esq. (through Mr Bright), the same sum. The following gentlemen subscribed £400 each:—Messrs Thos Ashton and Sons; Robert Lees and Sons; Nathan Lees and Brothers. The following £300:—Messrs Reyner and Co., Whitaker, Lord, Whitehead, Bayley, and S. Ashton. Several sums of £200, £150, and £100, and smaller subscriptions, were given, and the total amount raised was more than £12,000.

The contribution towards the £100,000 League fund in Manchester alone already exceeds £14,000, realised since Tuesday last, and it is expected that at least £20,000 will be raised in that town towards this object.—*Manchester Times*.

SALISBURY ELECTION.—The nomination is to take place this day, the polling to-morrow. Large meetings of free traders have been held nightly, at which Messrs Cobden, Bright, and Moore, have occasionally been present to enlighten the citizens on the all-engrossing subject of the day—the corn laws. No less than eleven meetings took place between the 30th of October and November 9th. The free trade party speak confidently of a large increase of votes in favour of their candidate, if not of his triumph. One party, writing from the scene of action, says—

"To speak with anything like certainty of the result would be presumptuous. Neither party can really feel confident, for I am told, on good authority, that the books of the rival canvassers cannot show a majority of twenty for either party. The seeds now sown will yield an abundant harvest in the fulness of time. At Durham, in the first contest, the League was defeated; it was by fighting a losing battle at Walsall that the borough was subsequently won. If defeated here, the League will hold a meeting the day after the election to organise its forces for future victory. I am told, indeed, that the council of the League will make Salisbury a great centre of operations from which to act upon several neighbouring boroughs." Mr Acland, the anti-corn-law lecturer, in a letter of the 16th ult., thus writes to a friend in Newcastle:—"Against every malignant influence, and despite the brutality of hired ruffians (the refuse of the gaols), we are fighting this noble battle with every probability of success. I speak with some knowledge of the doctrine of electoral chances, and I assure you of my cool opinion—I may say my conviction—that we shall return our man. Every influence is on, and every screw is turned; yet we shall win."

SYMPATHY WITH IRELAND.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Salford was held at the Town hall, on Wednesday evening, "to consider the pro-

priety of protesting against the government proceedings in Ireland, and to pray her Majesty the Queen not to allow the money and energies of the country to be wasted in the attempt to suppress meetings in Ireland, convened to petition for the redress of grievances." The meeting had been called on a requisition to the borough reeve and constables, by Mr James Bancroft, one of the constables, and was very numerously attended, though the weather was unfavourable. On the motion of Mr Galley, Mr Bancroft, the constable, was called to the chair. After a few words from the chairman, Mr T. Warren addressed the meeting in a long and eloquent speech. In the course of his address, he read a protest against the government proceedings in Ireland for the adoption of the meeting. The following is the principal portion of it:—

We do not charge you with the intention to massacre the people, who could not possibly be apprised of your intention to interfere with what they believed to be their constitutional right of meeting in public; but we do say, that in no other country but temperate and peaceful Ireland, is it at all probable a government could have so acted without a great effusion of human blood being the result. We therefore feel called upon, and do hereby enter our solemn protest against your proceedings, and demand of you that instead of grossly violating (as we believe you have done) the right of British subjects in interfering with their peaceful public meeting, that you no longer continue to attempt the suppression of public opinion in Ireland, by the exhibition of great physical force, and means of violence, but that you have recourse at once to those nobler and better measures which would be more creditable to your characters as British statesmen, and more in accordance with the rights of humanity, and the principles of the glorious gospel by which you profess to be guided. Let the wrongs of which our Irish brethren complain be inquired into; and upon proper evidence of their existence let proper remedies be applied; use the power you possess as the directors of the concerns of this great empire in arranging for the admission of Ireland's sons upon terms of justice and perfect equality to all the rights of British citizens; cease to violate their consciences, and to disgrace the principles of protestantism, by forcing them to support a church in which they do not worship; foster and encourage that spirit of temperance, and peace, and industry, with which they are endued: clear away the obstructions which bad laws have placed in the way of their intelligence and industry, and by thus treating them as men and not as slaves, you will effectually destroy any wish on their part for the dismemberment of the empire; you will be thought of with gratitude and affection by the Irish people, and we shall no more have cause to contemplate your acts with indignation and disgust, as we have done this day.

Henry Bury, Esq., moved, and Mr John Dracup seconded, that this protest be adopted, which was carried unanimously. A memorial to her Majesty was then agreed to; after which the meeting was addressed by Mr Leach and Mr Massie, independent minister.

EDUCATION.—We refer with great pleasure to a report in another column, of the proceedings of a public meeting, held in this borough on Monday last, in promotion of the cause of education. The meeting was presided over by our borough member, Mr Hutt, whose conduct and addresses on the occasion have been deservedly objects of unqualified approbation. The speeches of the other speakers, too, were remarkable for the candour and clearness, combined with firmness, with which the right of the people to be educated was advocated and enforced. On the previous sabbath collections were made at several of the dissenting places of worship.—*Gateshead Observer*.

THE BROUGHAM HALL ESTATES.—Another claimant—one of the largest flock of "Birds," from Bondgate, near Appleby—has lately been resident at the village of Clifton, searching for copies of registers of births, marriages, and deaths of his ancestors, &c., with a view to substantiate his pedigree and title to Brougham hall and estates. After the legal decision last summer, it must be the height of folly, on the part of the Birds, or any other persons, to litigate the matter further.

A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.—The principal woolen drapers of this town now close their places of business at seven o'clock.—*Liverpool Journal*. [We are glad to find that the movement in favour of the early closing of shops is becoming very general; most of the liberal provincial journals containing references to the subject, or reports of meetings to further this laudable object.]

THE MAYOR OF LIVERPOOL.—The investigation into the charges against Mr Sands, of defrauding the Liverpool town dues by confounding boxes with cases and bales with trusses, has resulted in the honourable acquittal of that gentleman; and at the adjourned meeting of the town council, yesterday week, he was elected mayor, by 35 votes; his opponent, Mr S. H. Lawrence, having only 19.

JUSTICES' JUSTICE.—We find in the police reports, given by the *Worcester Chronicle*, a few specimens of worshipful discrimination and their distribution of penal inflictions, proportioned to the turpitude of the offences brought before them, as exhibited in the fines, costs, and alternatively awarded periods of imprisonment, pronounced by certain magistrates of that county. At the Pershore petty sessions, of Tuesday last, a case of petty assault, committed by a labouring man on his neighbour in a squabble respecting the predatory habits of a pig belonging to one of them, was decided by ordering the defendant to pay 6d. fine, and 9s. 6d. expenses; or, failing payment, fourteen days' imprisonment. The Bromsgrove bench has, it seems, another scale of fine, or imprisonment. A case of rather aggravated assault, brought before their Bromsgrove worships on the same day, in which the complainant, on his return home from work, found the defendant in familiar

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conversation with his wife, and sought to eject him, but got the worst of the conflict, and was himself ejected from his own house—even this case was deemed worthy of only fourteen days' imprisonment, although the fine was certainly 10s., and the costs 7s. 6d. At the Stourbridge petty sessions, on the 9th inst., a case of unprovoked, and—as the facts fully warranted the report in characterising—"ferocious assault," was brought before the bench. The outrage was committed by the keeper of a beer shop, and a company of brickmakers who were drinking in his house, upon a respectable man who entered the house, and who was extensively cut and bruised by his ruffian assailants. This case was, it is true, deemed worthy of a fine of £5 upon the beer-shop keeper, and of £2 each upon the other defendants. But, then, the period of imprisonment, in the event of non-payment of the fines, was only one month—just double the period at which the sixpenny assault case was fixed by the Pershore bench!

NEW RAILWAYS.—New railways from Ashton and Stalybridge to Manchester, and from the Manchester and Birmingham line to Macclesfield, have been lately projected, and the requisite measures taken to secure their accomplishment.

DON'T JOKE WITH ELEPHANTS.—At the statue fair, Barnsley, on Saturday last, a country bumpkin went to look at Hilton's collection of wild beasts. On entering the place he began to amuse himself by giving the elephant ginger-bread and fruit; but, soon growing tired of that, he thought he would try what a joke would do, and accordingly he pricked the elephant's trunk with a penknife. No sooner was this done than out of the den rushed the animal amongst the visitors, forcing the chain and the large post, to which he had been fastened, along with him. The elephant caught the delinquent by the collar, and threw him with great force on the ground. Up he got quickly, and made his escape outside, but the elephant struck the temporary ceiling, which the man had just passed, with such force as to shiver it to pieces. The scene at the moment was truly ludicrous—men, women, and children were laid in all directions. Fortunately, no one was hurt, except the elephant-pricker, who complained of his collar bone, but who may thank his stars that he did not lose his life.—*Leeds Intelligencer.*

LONDON AND DOVER RAILWAY.—Another accident occurred on this line on Wednesday to the four o'clock p.m. down train. After proceeding to within a mile of the Maidstone road station, the engine and tender, without any apparent cause, ran off the rails and into the side cutting, where it became embedded. The connexion between the luggage van and carriages having broken, the latter also were, by the concussion, forced off the rails, and ran into the opposite side of the cutting. The engine driver and stoker were the only parties who suffered.

GREAT FIRE IN BIRMINGHAM.—One of the largest fires we have had for some years took place on Wednesday morning, on the extensive premises of Mr Furley, japanner, Hospital street. The great quantity of varnish which had been in use in the great range of shopping added to the flames, and baffled all the powers of the engines. In the course of an hour, the immense range of shopping and a great quantity of very valuable property were in ruins. The estimated loss is about £4,000, but it is impossible to say for certainty the exact amount. Some of the property is insured in the district office, and some in the Norwich.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—During the past week a large amount of property has been destroyed at Oldham and Bury, by the flames. In the former case, a considerable portion of the extensive mill of Mr John Lees, Primrose hill, Oldham, was consumed, and damage to the machinery and other property sustained to the amount of £5,000. In the latter case, the factory of Openshaw, woollen manufacturers, near Bury, was almost totally destroyed, in spite of the most strenuous exertions of the inhabitants. The damage is estimated at £10,000.

IRELAND.**THE STATE TRIALS.**

Tuesday week was quite an important day at the court of Queen's bench, Dublin. It was the day appointed for the traversers to plead, and the attorney-general had come down prepared to oppose the motion for an extension of the time for that purpose, which it was thought would be made. The traversers all appeared in person, and handed in what are called "pleas in abatement." Mr O'Connell's plea was first read. He protested that he was not guilty of any part of the indictment; but declared that he ought not to be compelled to answer it, and that it ought to be quashed; because the grand jury had found a true bill upon the evidence of adverse persons who had not been sworn in open court, in accordance with the provisions of the act to regulate the proceedings of grand juries in Ireland. This assertion he undertook to verify; and he prayed the judgment of the court on the indictment. All the other pleas were in the same form. The crown lawyers seemed to be taken by surprise; and the attorney-general begged the court to allow him until the next morning to look into the plea more fully. Counsel for the prisoners demanded to have the plea filed at once; but, declaring that the matter lay within the discretion of the court, the judges adjourned without any further step being taken. A gentleman who was present in the court, says that the consternation of the law officers when they heard the plea was most manifest—"the explosion of a shell among the crown lawyers could not have caused greater astonishment than this totally unexpected movement."

On Wednesday, the question was argued as an application of the attorney-general that the pleas in abatement should not be received. The counsel for the crown insisted, that the plea in abatement must be made when the accused is arraigned, before pleading the general issue; the arraignment of the prisoner taking place when his name is called by the clerk. Moreover, in civil cases, four days are allowed to plead in abatement, and the time of the defendants began to run on the 9th, expired on Sunday, or, adding a day's grace, on Monday; so that, by analogy, they were bound to plead on Monday. On the other side, counsel contended that the defendant was entitled to four clear days, not counting Sunday; that no distinction was contemplated in the different kinds of plea; and that the act in question applied equally to all pleas, whether in bar or abatement. As for the practice of the court, the attorneys for the defendants had written to Mr Bourne, the clerk of the crown (who has filled the office for many years, and is a person of great age and experience), to ask whether Monday or Tuesday would be the last day for pleading under the rule issued on the 9th, and he replied thus—

"Gentlemen—Relative to the effect of the rule of the 9th, the parties have the whole of Tuesday to plead or demur in. So says the clerk of the crown."

"WALTER BOURNE, clerk of the Crown."

Chief Justice Pennefather gave his opinion, that the distinction as to the kinds of plea, and the limitation of time, were no longer open to the law officer of the crown, after Mr Bourne's letter; that as the statute of the 60th George III., which was in some degree penal, and must therefore not be construed narrowly, deprived the defendant of the right of traversing *in proz.*, and give him in lieu four days to plead in, the time must not be further contracted, but four clear days must be allowed; and that as no reservation was made in regard to the several kinds of plea, it must be understood to apply equally to all, including pleas in abatement. The pleas therefore were admitted.

The attorney-general then stated that he intended to demur to every one of the pleas; and he called on the defendants to appear *instanter* and join in demur. The chief justice thought the defendants were bound to join in demur *instanter*. Mr Moore hastily rose, said that he was taken by surprise, and argued that the defendants were at least entitled to have a rule served upon them. After conferring with Mr Bourne, the Chief Justice said, he found on inquiry that the practice was to give a four days' rule; and—not without opposition from the attorney-general, who declared that the bench were masters of the rules of the court—the four days' rule issued.

It appears that the traversers are entitled to two extra days, besides the four specified in the rule, before arguing on the Attorney-General's demur to the plea of abatement. With respect to the validity of the plea, the correspondent of the *Chronicle* says:—

"I apprised you, in a letter last night, that some very eminent barristers have given it as their opinion that it is a perfectly valid plea, and I stated the reasons, by reference to the 1st and 2d Victoria, chap. 37, and to the common law practice of the Court of Queen's Bench, which is excluded from that act, as regards the swearing of witnesses before a grand jury. This day I have been informed by Conservative barristers that the plea is a decidedly good one, and that it must lead to the quashing of the indictment and of the whole proceedings since the commencement. I have been informed, also, by persons well acquainted with the practice of the courts, that it would take two terms to argue the validity of the plea and collateral points arising therefrom. Each of the nine traversers is entitled to a separate argument by counsel, upon his own distinct plea."

Whether or not the plea be admitted, it will give the defendants an opportunity, supposing they should be tried on the indictment and found guilty, of appealing to the House of Lords, which will cause the final issue to be protracted to a most distant futurity. Of future proceedings the *Dublin Monitor* says:—

"It is rumoured, however, that the Crown officers, seeing that it is impossible to have a trial this term, owing to the mismanagement already noticed, have determined to abandon the present indictment, and proceed by *ex officio*; but this rumour we discredit altogether."

"As our readers may be interested in the fact, we repeat what we have already said—that under no circumstances whatever can a trial be had this term, or even in the after sittings, thanks to the excellent management of the Crown officials. The traversers have played the game of procrastination with admirable success, and have foiled the Crown on all points."

It was expected that the arguments on the Attorney-General's demur to the plea of abatement would not be resumed until to-day.

ANOTHER BLUNDER.—The Attorney-General had to file nine demurrers, and he should, in consequence, have entered a separate rule for each; but the whole of the nine demurrers have been included in one rule, contrary to the well-known and invariable practice of the court. The error is one in practice, and, on account of the many previous bungles, it has caused great merriment amongst the legal profession.

The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* gives some interesting particulars, in Monday's paper, of the principal personages concerned in the state trials. Commencing with Chief Justice Pennefather, he says, that the high character for impartiality which that judge formerly maintained has been sullied by his recent conduct on the bench:—

"The former feelings have not been revived by the law arguments on the monster indictment, and its tiny plea is abatement; for the public, having seen that the Chief Justice was, in the first instance, ready to jump with the Attorney-General, seem but little disposed to give him credit for the readiness with which he retreated when he found that he was checked by the rules of the court—rules established before he had a seat on the bench."

"The second judge, Mr Burton, is an Englishman, and one who is highly respected for his abilities, as well as his tendencies as a constitutional judge. The only fault to be found with him is his age, and, what is not a usual attendant upon age, his willingness, it is said, to yield his judgment to the majority of those sitting on the same bench with him."

"The third judge, Mr Crampton, was one of the unfortunate appointments of the Whigs; that is, when some of the present Tories were Whigs. His legislation as a Solicitor-General constitutes one of 'the grievances of Ireland,' viz., the Irish Reform Bill, by which he contrived that whilst the county of Cork, with its thousands of inhabitants, should not obtain a single additional representative, that sink of bigotry, intolerance, and Toryism, the Dublin University, should have two members instead of one."

"The fourth judge, Mr Perrin, has been a dissentient in one or two instances from the judgment given by his brethren. That he deserves to be well thought of, at least in England, it is unnecessary for me to affirm, when I find that his views upon the questions that have come before the court have been generally approved of."

He then proceeds to describe the counsel:—

"As to the counsel engaged for these trials, it is admitted that, of all the blunders committed on the part of the Crown, the first and greatest has been their neglecting to retain the services of such men as Mr Henn, Mr Whiteside, Mr M'Donough, and Mr Fitzgibbon; that they should have passed by, on account of their political opinions, Mr Pigott, Mr Moore, and Mr Hatchell, cannot be imputed to them as a fault, no more than their declining to engage on their side such able juniors as Mr O'Hagan and Mr Close. Their neglect, however, has placed in an awkward predicament one Queen's counsel and one senior, Mr Wortley, and Mr Napier; the latter is the gentleman that insists that no retainer is of value, unless it can, like a *capias*, be attested by an affidavit of personal service! What, however, must be the consequence of this neglect? Should the case go to trial, there is not one man on the side of the Crown capable of making an eloquent address to the jury, and through them of appealing to the country. Of Mr Smith's advocacy, the assembled Commons of England have been witnesses. They have determined his fitness. Mr Smith is a lawyer—a mere lawyer. The Solicitor-General is a sound lawyer, but has no more notion of oratory than he has of flying. Mr Brewster has energy—violence—passion, but is no more capable of making the speech of a statesman than of dancing the *gavotte de Vestris*; whilst, on the other hand, the traversers are free to choose as their advocates—their practised advocates in addressing a jury—the mild and insinuating eloquence of Pigott, the stern and imposing style of Moore, the mighty powers of Mr Henn, and the bold and fervent energy of Mr Hatchell, whilst there is ready to burst forth at every moment the irrepressible zeal of Mr. Whiteside, the watchful eagerness of M'Donough, and the merciless slaughtering vigour of Fitzgibbon. As far as the champions on either side are concerned, the battle is not a fair one. The traversers have as their defenders the giants of the Irish bar, and there is not for the Crown a single Amadis or Orlando capable of entering the lists in the hope of conquering them, even though he be nominally in the encounter the chosen champion of 'our lady the Queen.'"

Of the traversers he had seen but little:—

"I have not yet obtained but a passing glance at them. For a moment they came in a body with their abatement plea, and then dispersed. They are not in the habit of appearing in the court. Now and again it may be fancied that the uneasy spirit of Father Tyrrell can be recognised peering forth with its pallid visage out of one of the dark corners or obscure passages leading to the side-bar; or there seems to burst from the floor, at the most inopportune moment, and in the most startling guise, repeat-buttoned, military capped, officer-like frock, beneath the very feet of the Attorney-General, the stalwart figure of Tom Steele—a 'blood-battered' Banquo, with twenty trenched gashes on his head; for more than twenty are the deadly counts of the ponderous indictment heaped upon him, who is devoted to the sacrifice. At some unexpected, unlooked-for, and adverse incident he is seen to encounter the gaze of the Attorney-General; and to do so, because he seems to know that T. C. B. Smith labours under the infirmity of Macbeth—

"If you much note him,
You shall offend him, and extend his passion."

THE HILL FIRES IN THE COUNTRY.—The provincial papers contain accounts of simultaneous bonfires in all parts of the country. The Orange papers assert that these fires must be regarded as evidence of an organization for rebellion! The simple fact is, that they were merely adopted as a mode of rejoicing for the success of Mr O'Connell and the other traversers in the recent proceedings in the Queen's Bench.—*Chronicle.*

DECLARATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRELATES AGAINST A STATE PROVISION FOR THE CLERGY.—The Roman Catholic archbishops and bishops of Ireland, now assembled at their annual conference in this city, have deemed it their duty, for the third time within seven years, to publish a most decided declaration against a state provision for the clergy, in any form whatever. They have issued the following resolutions:—

"At a general meeting of the archbishops and bishops of Ireland, held in the Parochial-house, Marlborough-street, on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of January, 1837, the Most Rev. Dr Murray in the chair, the following resolution was proposed and adopted:—

"Resolved, That, alarmed at the report that an attempt is likely to be made during the approaching session of Parliament to make a state provision for the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland, we deem it our imperative duty not to separate without recording the expression of our strongest reprobation of any such attempt, and of our unalterable determination to resist, by every means in our power, a measure so fraught with mischief to the independence and purity of the Catholic religion in Ireland."

"At a general meeting of the archbishops and bishops of Ireland, held in the Presbytery-house, Marlborough-street, on the 9th day of November, 1841, the Most Rev. Dr M'Hale in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That his Grace the Most Rev. Dr Murray be requested to call a special general meeting of the prelates of all Ireland, in case that he shall have clear proof or well-grounded apprehension that the odious and alarming scheme of a state provision for the Catholic clergy in this portion of the empire be contemplated by the Government before our next general meeting."

"At a meeting of the Catholic archbishops and bishops of Ireland, held in Dublin on the 15th of November, 1841, the Most Rev. Dr M'Hale in the chair, it was proposed by the Most Rev. Dr Murray, and seconded by the Most Rev. Dr Slattery, and unanimously resolved:—

"That the preceding resolutions be now re-published, in order to make known to our faithful clergy and people, and to all others concerned, that our firm determination on this subject remains unchanged; and that we unanimously pledge ourselves to resist, by every influence we possess, every attempt that may be made to make any state provision for the Catholic clergy, in whatever shape or form it may be offered."

MURDER OF LORD NORBURY.—John Gill, a labourer employed at the Royal Barrack in Dublin, was arrested while at work, on Wednesday, by two policemen from Queen's county, on a charge implicating him in the murder of Lord Norbury. He at once recognised one of the policemen, and said, "I know you, and know what you want with me." The policeman replying, "Do you?" the prisoner added, "Yes; but you are mistaken." When informed that he was arrested on a charge of being concerned in the murder of Lord Norbury, he made no answer, but asked if there was any person in gaol on the charge? He was conveyed to Tullamore gaol.

OUTRAGE IN TIPPERARY.—A shocking affair occurred on Sunday evening, the 12th inst., arising out of the fertile source—the tenure of land. It appears that many poor families have been, from time to time, expelled from the lands of Thomas Waller, Esq., of Finoe, Borrisokane, county Tipperary, and on Sunday evening the family circle of Mr Waller, consisting of that gentleman and Mrs Waller, a young boy, their grandson, son to John Francis Waller, Esq., Miss Vereker, sister to Mrs Waller, and John A. Braddell, Esq., brother-in-law of Mr Waller, had just sat down to dinner, when eight or nine armed men entered the dining-room and attacked them all. The gentlemen of the party, promptly assisted by the ladies, seized the carving and dinner knives, and made a most resolute defence. One ruffian levelled a pistol at Mr Waller, which was struck down by Mr Braddell, and, after such a scene as it is impossible to describe, the assailants were beaten off, but not before the inmates of the house were severely injured. Mr Waller's arm was broken, and he also received a bad injury in the head, and it is rumoured that Miss Vereker is not expected to survive. The assailants themselves must also have fared badly, as the ear of one was left behind, and other relics of the determined nature of the defence. The latest account states, "Mr Waller still holds his ground, but is not yet out of danger. Mrs Waller is now pronounced to be safe; Mr Braddell's case is still precarious, but not without hope; but Miss Vereker, it is feared, can scarcely recover." The magistrates are to hold a meeting on the subject. Of course there are some reasons for the outrage, mad as it is; and they may be gathered from a passage in a letter on the subject:—"Mr Waller is a justice of the peace for the county, and an extensive land-proprietor. He has, it is said, resorted pretty freely to the 'clearance' system, and he would rather any day stumble over a tree than a cottage on his property."

THE O'CONNELL TRIBUTE.—The state prosecutions have swelled the tribute to an amount quite unparalleled. In general, the Dublin returns—and they have been found a fair criterion for the country—approach to treble the average of the previous five years. The average for the latter period was £1,660, this year the amount is £3,577. The provinces, there can be no doubt, will produce a similar augmentation. The Government has thus received a useful lesson and a solemn warning.

FEDERALISM.—The *Pilot* of Saturday evening contains the subjoined letter "from the son of the great and good Bishop of Norwich," addressed to Mr Daniel O'Connell. The venerable archdeacon declares himself a favourer of a federal Parliament, but adds, that he is prepared, in the event of such a measure turning out to be worthless or impracticable, to go the whole hog in support of "simple repeal of the union." Altogether, and irrespective of its unreasonable dimensions, the letter appears worthy of a careful perusal. The following is an extract from the letter:—

"TO DANIEL O'CONNELL, ESQ.

"Sir,—I send you my name as a Repealer of the Union with Ireland, so far as a substitute can be found in a federal union—that is, a representation of general interests, as now, in the imperial of special interests, in a local Parliament, and so far as this measure can be carried into effect, by a fair and impartial committee of inquiry recommending the mode and reconciling the difficulties; and, provided you immediately command to your countrymen this line of conduct, I will send my name (one sovereign) of subscription when you will publish an account, however general, of the mode in which the Catholic rent is already applied; and, if a federal union is proved to be worthless and impracticable, I will support you in any lawful measure to effect a simple repeal of the union, for I know Ireland well, and that the present state of things cannot go on."

"My late father declared, thirty-five years ago, in the House of Lords, that if England persevered as to Ireland, in refusing Catholic emancipation with the cry of 'No Popery,' that she would soon be answered by Ireland with the cry of 'No union.'

"That prediction is verified, and I, his son, venture to say now, in the same spirit of prophecy, that if we refuse to enter into the question of repeal of the union, with a view to give Ireland more control at least over her own affairs, that the next step will be a violent separation—and mischief will not end there."

"Whether we acted politically in first concessions or not, we are now placed in a new position, and must act accordingly, and, only securing the safety and full protection of the Protestant party in Ireland, we must be prepared, I am now convinced, for larger measures, and justice on a wider scale."

"To my late father you owe the honourable position which you and other Catholics now hold in the Imperial Parliament, more than to any other individual that ever lived. He was followed by two or three, at least, of the most resolute Tory peers, merely out of respect to his opinion and character; and the effect of his example was important beyond measure towards the carrying of that which it was hoped would prove a healing measure, but which certainly, from the tardiness of its coming, lost much of its good effect."

"I, who have followed his steps, and have been the chief sufferer from the cruelty and inconsistency of the late Government, by the sacrifices which my father made, and in whose family his interests now so suffer, and with no other plea than that I have dared to remonstrate with those whose Government grew out of the strongest remonstrances which they originated or fostered against the measures of those who are called Tories; if I can contribute, by now showing that it is persons, and not principles, on whom I turn my back—if I can contribute yet to heal, by now stepping forward, the wounds of a country of which I am by birth on my mother's side so near a kinsman, I shall consider that I do service beyond any which my father ever rendered. For the crisis is now come—you have brought us to that crisis. Let me now, as friend still of Ireland, speak, though I point to my father's monument, and say, 'Is there one grateful sixpence, one grateful farthing, contributed to that monument by any Irish Roman Catholic, though Irish Catholics made such a fuss about him when it suited their purpose?'"

Miscellaneous.

WOODEN RAILWAYS.—We have been much gratified by an inspection of the proof of Mr W. Prosser's ingenuity and scientific skill. Every person who is aware of the enormous expense of iron railways, principally incurred in consequence of the vast cuttings, deep tunnelings, and high embankments required upon such lines, in order to prevent the necessity of steep gradients, must be aware of the immense advantage gained when it is found perfectly practicable, by the means now adopted by Mr Prosser, to force an engine up an inclined plane of one foot in eight or nine. The rails, as we have hinted, are altogether of wood, and the wheels destined to work upon them are of a very peculiar construction. A wooden railway, of limited extent, has been laid down at the Belgrave works in Pimlico. A carriage impelled by steam, built to traverse it, has been running upon it for some time, and the results of the experiment are satisfactory in the highest degree. * * * The advantages of wooden rails are numerous. We have already alluded to the facility with which carriages running upon them can ascend steep inclined planes; this capability involves a great economy in the expense of forming tunnels, cutting embankments, building bridges, the purchase of land, and in the actual cost of the rails. They diminish also the expense of engines, as machines of a much lighter construction than those used on iron railroads will be requisite. The same remark applies to the carriages, and, of course, holds good as regards the wear and tear of both. The public will also be the gainers by wooden railways, in consequence of the cheap rate at which they can be constructed, naturally diminishing the fares; in consequence also, of the increased safety, and the decreased noise of their action. * * * Altogether we wish, as from what we have seen we cannot but be inclined to foretell, the success of Mr Prosser's invention.—*Morning Chronicle*.

O'CONNELL AS A "COUNSELLOR."—He went the Munster circuit, which in those days was thronged by men of great professional ability. But O'Connell ranked first among the first; his qualities as a professional man have, perhaps, never been sufficiently noticed. Caution in conducting a case was his most prominent characteristic. He affected to be a careless, but a more wary advocate never stood in a court of justice. Perhaps no great advocate ever had the same relish for the legal profession. O'Connell hunted down a cause with the gusto of a Kerry fox-hunter in pursuit of Reynard. He keenly enjoyed baffling the crown counsel, and bullying the witnesses against some trembling culprit in the dock. In those times, counsel for prisoners were not allowed to address the jury; but O'Connell had a great art of putting illegal questions to a witness, and, in arguing for their legality, made "aside" short interjectional speeches to the jury. In civil cases he was equally successful. In will causes, disputed estates, and questions originating in family quarrels, he was unrivaled for his tact, presence of mind, and, above all, for his understanding the details of business. He was the best man of business that ever appeared at the Irish bar, and was rather vain of his skill in arithmetical calculation. He had great knowledge of character, and directed [?] dissects the motives of a plaintiff or defendant with inimitable skill. His combination of worldly knowledge and professional information—his aptness and ingenuity—his exhaustless supply of humour—his torrents of caustic ridicule—his zeal for his client, and untiring physical energies, rendered him altogether matchless at the Irish bar. Perhaps the greatest quality in the court of justice was his oblivion of himself. When addressing a jury, he forgot everything around him, and thought only of bringing off his client victorious. No lust for oratorical display ever tempted him to make a speech dangerous to the party by whom he was retained. Sooner than have made such a speech as Brougham delivered in the case of Ambrose Williams, O'Con-

nell would have thrown up his brief. He was *par excellence* the safest advocate ever entrusted with a case. For the union of great general powers he stands without a rival in the history of the legal profession. Curran and Erskine were finer orators, but they were shallow lawyers; Plunkett had a more powerful understanding, and was superior to all contemporary advocates in sustained reasoning powers, but he had little of O'Connell's versatility. If Sir Thomas Wilde had pathos and humour, he would be a sort of English O'Connell. Redoubtable as was Garrow at cross examination, he was inferior to the great Irish advocate in the art of putting a prepared witness off his guard. Besides, Garrow had a set plan for approaching a witness, and seldom made those wonderful guesses at character by which O'Connell gained many a verdict. There can be no doubt that his powers in a court of justice deserved, as they received, the admiration of all who witnessed their display.—*Ireland and its Rulers since 1829*.

PITT'S OPINION OF DISSENTERS.—In 1772, a bill to relieve dissenters from subscribing to the 39 articles of the church of England, passed the House of Commons, but was lost in the House of Lords by the weight and influence of the episcopal bench, particularly Dr Drummond, Archbishop of York, who strongly inveighed against dissenters. Pitt, the eloquent Earl of Chatham, in reply to the Archbishop said—"Whosoever brought such a charge against dissenters without proof defamed." After a pause he felt the workings of a generous and indignant enthusiasm, and thus proceeded:—"The dissenting ministers are represented as men of close ambition—they are so, my lords, and their ambition is to keep close to the college of fishermen, not of cardinals; and to the doctrine of inspired apostles, not to the decrees of interested bishops. They contend for a spiritual creed and spiritual worship; we have a Calvinistic creed, a Popish liturgy, and an Arminian clergy. The reformation laid open the Scriptures to all; let not the bishops shut them again. Laws in support of ecclesiastical power are pleaded which it would shock humanity to execute. It is said that religious sects have done great mischief when they are not kept under restraint, but history affords no proof that sects have ever been mischievous but when they were oppressed by the ruling church."

HARD WORK.—The *Spectator*, speaking of the Birmingham festival, says:—"The performances on the organ cost Dr Wesley great exertion, his face being bathed in perspiration. He performed everything for himself—the management of the stops, the turning of the leaves of the music book, &c., &c. The pedals were chalked to prevent a slip of the foot, and an area of some breadth was kept open around him. The scene interested the musicians of the orchestra—one of whom declared, that he had 'never seen a man so fully engaged in his life!'

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.—The evil of irregular attendance exists in the public schools of Massachusetts to a scandalous extent; the average attendance, in winter, of those between four and sixteen, who are supposed to be wholly dependent for education upon public schools, being little more than ten-seventeenth, or 117,979 out 173,058. We are not, in England, quite so much behind our American kindred in general education, after all, as some zealous advocates of centralisation and government management would fain make it appear.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—Persons who find a difficulty in attaching the adhesive stamps firmly to their letters are recommended to wet the letter in preference to applying the moisture directly to the gum; as the latter plan involves some danger of washing the gum off the stamp. Further, it is advisable to wet the face of the stamp slightly, in order to prevent the stamp from curling up at its edges, which, without this precaution, it has a tendency to do; for, when the gum imbibes the moisture, it immediately expands, and thereby renders the gummed side of the stamp somewhat the longest; but, by wetting the printed side also, the two sides are equalised. Or the stamp may be dipped wholly into water, instead of wetting the letter, provided the surplus water be shaken off immediately. When the stamp is put on, it should be pressed gently with a piece of clean blotting paper.

RICKETY CHILDREN.—In a well-digested treatise on productive farming, just issued from the press of Tait, of Edinburgh, the following truthful observations occur:—"It is in vegetable as in animal life; a mother crams her child exclusively with arrowroot; it becomes fat, it is true, but alas! it is rickety, and gets its teeth very slowly, and with difficulty. Mamma is ignorant, or never thinks that her offspring cannot make bone, or what is the same thing, phosphate of lime, the principal bulk of bone, out of starch. It does its best; and were it not for a little milk and bread, perhaps now and then a little meat and soup, it would have no bones and no teeth at all. Farmers keep poultry; and what is true of fowls, is true of a cabbage, a turnip, or an ear of wheat. If we mix with the food of fowls a sufficient quantity of egg shells or chalk, which they eat greedily, they will lay many more eggs than before. A well-fed fowl is disposed to lay a vast number of eggs; but cannot do so without the materials for the shells, however nourishing, in other respects, her food may be.

THE MARTINEAU COMPENSATION FUND.—The subscription to compensate Miss Harriet Martineau for her disinterested refusal of a government pension has been closed, and £1,348 remitted to that lady.

SUMMARY OF PUNCH'S PARLIAMENT.—Ordered to lie on the table:—Dinner at half-past six; supper at one; anchovies at three. To be read this day six months:—The butcher's book, and the income tax paper.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

CONFLAGRATION IN THE WOODS OF CANADA.

The long-continued drought throughout the province has been, in many places, attended by the most disastrous results. A conflagration, second only in extent to the great Miramichi fire, has, for many days, been raging in every district. Aided by high winds, the flames have spread with rapidity almost incredible, and thousands of acres of uncleared forest land have been, both as respects the soil and timber, irreparably ruined. Extensive clearings offered no bar to the progress of the fire; a kindled leaf, borne by the wind, sufficed to create a new flame among the parched, tinder-like material of the forest; or a spark, lodging on a decayed stump, instantly produced a flame which, in its turn, sent forth thousands of fiery messengers, which leaping on from spot to spot, in a manner which needs to be seen to be imagined, soon communicated with the forest, again to leap, and crackle, and roar among the tall victims of its embrace. In the swamps, which are perfectly drained of moisture, where young cedars and pines form a thick and continuous bush of highly inflammable matter, and where the soil, to a considerable depth, consists of vegetable matter (black muck, as it is called) in a partially decomposed state, almost identical with peat, the conflagration has raged with the greatest fury, and with the most disastrous effects. The swamp land, when cleared and drained, if upon a clay bottom, owing to the continued decomposition of its burden of vegetable matter, which it will take years of cropping to exhaust, is the most productive land that the farmer can place under cultivation. But when this matter is reduced to ashes, and the substratum of clay baked and hardened almost into brick, for all present purposes such land is rendered useless, and it will require long ages of vegetation to again replenish the soil. Nor does the evil rest here. The large amount of ashes created by the burning, in some swamps we have seen during the last week, two, and even three feet in depth, contain so great a quantity of potash, that its liquefaction by rain will effectually burn up, and render barren, the soil which the fire has spared.

Unfortunately the damage to the farmer has not stopped here, but in hundreds of cases the upper soil of his cleared land has been burned off, his oats, and, in some cases, upon new land, his potatoes and turnips destroyed, and too frequently his new-stacked hay and grain have fallen a prey to the flames; and there are few who have not suffered more or less in the destruction of the fences. In some instances barns and dwelling-houses have been consumed, but these are, fortunately, few.

Throughout the county of Beauharnois, our correspondents write, the destructive element has been sweeping in every direction. From the St Lawrence, by night, the glare upon the sky marked the progress of a tremendous fire in the rear of the route of the Beauharnois canal, in a swamp called Teafield, extending about ten miles through the townships of Ormstown and Godmanchester, and in the Seigniory. Upon the upper side of this immense swamp, stretching over many thousand acres, there yet remain terrible evidences of the Miramichi fire. This tract of country is called the "Pine plains," and its name, to those who have ever looked upon it, is synonymous with desolation in its most hideous form. As far as the eye can reach, pillaring the horizon, in branchless, barkless nakedness, spread thousands of mighty pines, some charred and blackened with the embrace of the destroyer, others bleached with the winds and rains of years, they stand like pillars set by Time to count his ages by. Upon those plains, before the fire came, stood an exhaustless mine of wealth—masts for the navy of an empire for ages—and now the great worm bores his way through the dead timber, and the woodpecker's incessant tap only breaks the silence of the solitude; there man has no share, his footsteps never tread. The ground around these dead sticks is covered with rasp and blackberry bushes, and there the solitary bear makes merry, and lives at his ease, for this is his garden, and who shall disturb him?

Through a portion of this desolate region the fire has been lately raging, and owing to the decay and dryness of the timber, has—instead of, as usual, consuming only the underbrush, leaving the heavier timber killed, but yet standing—left nothing but ashes in its track. During the last week, it was the fortune of the writer of this article to be in the vicinity of the conflagration during the night, and a scene more terribly beautiful eye never looked upon. The flames, with a rushing roar like the flowing of a mighty stream, were pouring across the plains, now rising, now falling, like waves, and licking up every dead thing in its track; dashing against the tall pine sticks, curling and climbing up their mighty heights; and leaping from tree to tree, crackling and roaring and rolling along as if it bore the souls of ten thousand demons, and this was their jubilee. In the distance lay the blackened track of the fire, which, ever and anon as the wind swept over it, gave forth a cloud of sparks, and glowed like a lake of lava; while here and there a solitary stick, as yet unconsumed, reared its pinnacle of flame, a mass of kindled charcoal to the very heavens, like good men's deeds amidst the darkness of the world. And then, on every side, above the roaring of this mighty furnace, every instant came the heavy crashing fall of timber, sweeping a course before it and illuminating the scene still more brightly for a few seconds. Far away, in rugged majesty, towered the bleached and blackened sticks of this interminable waste, now ruddy with the glow of the flames, and standing out distinctly from the horizon, now sinking into the deepest obscurity, and looking more desolately dark than ever. Indeed it was a scene which words have but feeble power to describe—it was a scene to be beheld, not told.—*Montreal Morning Courier.*

ENCOURAGEMENT TO ARTISTS.—There is much that is German in our court of Windsor, which might gain by the influence of the refined liberality of that of the Tuilleries. On a recent occasion, for instance, Gudin, a master and commander in the French navy, as well as one of the first painters in the world, was refused access to the fêtes of Buckingham palace, after enjoying, as an honoured guest, those of Louis Philippe and Nicholas I., on the ground that he was an artist; while Winterhalter, the Lawrence of France, when despatched to Windsor by the King of the French to paint the portraits of the Queen and Prince Albert, was never honoured by a royal invitation. It must have afforded some consolation to those enlightened and distinguished men, to know that Landseer, who has enriched the royal gallery with some of his choicest pictures, and is courted as a guest in half the aristocratic mansions in the kingdom, passes weeks together at Windsor castle without further notice vouchsafed him than to a corporal of life guards. But, in affording a balm for their wounded feelings, the fact also supplies to Europe a curious standard whereby to admeasure the refinement and liberality of the British court. It was not thus that Holbein, Rubens, and Vandyke, were welcomed by Henry and the Stuarts. It was not thus that the great schools of art were created by the illustrious patrons of Italy. It is not thus that the glorious improvements of Paris, and the regeneration of its galleries, have been effected by the King of the French. For though the Tuilleries may have their Dr Praetorius and their Sir James Clarke, the royal hospitality is not the less extended to the Scheffers and Vernetts; nay, one of the first distinctions conceded to the boy-author of the fine new tragedy of "Lucrèce," was an invitation to the table of his sovereign.—*Tait's Magazine.*

SELF-MADE MEN.—Columbus was a weaver. Franklin was a journeyman printer. Massillon, as well as Fletcher, arose amidst the humblest vocations. Niebuhr was a peasant. Sixtus V was employed in keeping swine. Rollin was the son of a cutler. Ferguson and Burns, Scottish poets, were shepherds. Aesop was a slave. Homer was a beggar. Daniel Defoe was apprenticed to a hosier. Demosthenes was the son of a cutler. Hogarth an engraver of pewter pots. Virgil was the son of a baker. Gay was an apprentice to a silk mercer. Ben Jonson was a bricklayer. Porson was the son of a parish clerk. Prideaux was employed to sweep Exeter college. Akenside was the son of a butcher. Pope was the son of a merchant. Cervantes was a common soldier. Gifford and Bloomfield were shoemakers. Howard was apprenticed to a grocer. Halley was the son of a soap boiler. Richard Arkwright was a barber for a number of years. Belzoni was the son of a barber. Blackstone was the son of a linen draper. Blacklock was in a distressful state of poverty. Buchanan was a private soldier. Butler was the son of a farmer. Canova was the son of a stone cutter. Catharine of Russia was born a peasant. Captain Cook began his career in the merchant service as a cabin boy. Curran was the son of poor parents. Sir Humphrey Davy was the son of a carver. Dodsley was a stocking weaver. Drake was the son of a shepherd. Hunter was apprenticed to a carpenter. Falconer was the son of a barber. Lawrence was the son of an innkeeper. La Fontaine was the son of an overseer of woods and forests. Milton was a schoolmaster. Parkes was the son of a small grocer. Pizarro was never taught to read when young, but employed to keep hogs. Pollock was the son of a carpenter. Allan Ramsay was the son of a miner. Raffaelle was the son of a peasant. Richardson was the son of a joiner. Shakspere commenced his career poor, and as a menial. Stone worked as a gardener, and taught himself to read. Kirke White was the son of a butcher.

DO FISHES THINK?—The *Sunday Mercury* thus argues the point:—It is said, and supposed to be true, that fishes never think. We think they do think—for one stopped to think once, after approaching our bait, with the evident intention of biting; but he came to the conclusion that he might just as well let alone. So we thought too. Now, if that fish didn't think, there is no doubt but he thought he thought.

THE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF MANKIND.—Mankind, says the *New York Whig*, may be divided into three distinct classes—superlatively honest men—confirmed scoundrels—and no men at all. To which the *Philadelphia Times* adds the following capital hit:—First person—We are. Second person—Ye or you are. Third person—They (the women) are.

A NUN'S WISH.—Southey, in his "Omniana," relates the following:—"When I was last at —, a nun made her escape from the Irish nunnery. The first thing for which she inquired, when she reached the house in which she was to be secreted, was a looking-glass. She had entered the convent when only five years old, and from that time had never seen her own face."

THE ART OF SHOPPING.—"What's the price of this article?" inquired a deaf old lady. "Seven shillings," said the draper. "Seventeen shillings!" she exclaimed, "I'll give you thirteen." "Seven shillings," replied the honest tradesman, "is the price of the article." "Oh! seven shillings?" the lady sharply rejoined; "I'll give you five!"

Once upon a time—in the senate house of Gotham—a motion was made, to impose upon everybody a tax, and put the whole produce of it into everybody's pocket. Hear him! hear him! hear him! was the cry. The motion passed by general acclamation. Quere, Of the Gotham senate house, what was the distance from St Stephen's?—*Benthamiana.*

Quills are things that sometimes are taken from the pinions of one goose to spread the opinions of another.

The number of soldiers receiving pensions from 6d. and 9d. to 1s. per diem, is upwards of 50,000.

Religious Intelligence.

INSTITUTION FOR EDUCATING THE SONS OF MISSIONARIES, WALTHAMSTOW.—A public meeting on behalf of this institution was held at Barbican chapel, on Wednesday evening, the 15th inst. Dr Halley having delivered an excellent and appropriate discourse, founded on the Jewish dedication of the first fruits, Mr J. Sherman, minister of Surrey chapel, was called to preside over the meeting. Mr J. J. Freeman, independent minister, then read the report, and the treasurer's account. Mr T. Binney, minister of Weigh House chapel, moved the adoption, printing, and circulation of the report. He thought that the institution was one which deserved very cordial support from all who professed to feel any sort of interest in the missionary cause—that cause which very emphatically belonged to them as a Christian people. The church of God was a great missionary institution; it had been placed in the world in order that it might subdue it to him; and the missionary character which it now assumed, and everywhere manifested, was precisely the character which Jesus Christ intended it to bear. Unless, therefore, they took a sincere and ardent interest in missionary operations, there was a great deficiency in their Christianity. Mr W. H. Drew (missionary from India), in seconding the resolution, said he felt great pleasure in stating to the meeting his gratitude and joy at the institution of two schools for the education of their children. It was an inexpressible relief to him, in leaving England to return to his duties in India, to know that there is a school where he could leave his child with confidence. They kept their children in India at the peril of their lives; and medical men had agreed that it was absolutely necessary to send them to England when six or seven years old. His own daughter, who was in excellent health at Walthamstow, was dying under the pressure of the climate of India; and their medical attendant said, that it would be madness to keep her there another month. That which was true in her case, was true in children generally. But, intellectually and morally, it was of the greatest consequence that they should be removed from the scenes of heathen life, and placed under the atmosphere of English Christianity. Dr Halley, in a short speech, moved—

"That applications having been made by some missionaries of the Baptist Missionary society for the admission of their sons into the institution, the children of all evangelical protestant missionaries be henceforth eligible for admission so far as the funds will admit; so that the basis of the school for the sons of missionaries shall correspond with that of the school for the daughters, and that the name of the boys' school be, in future, 'An institution for educating the sons of missionaries.'"

Mr Samuel Oughton (baptist missionary from Jamaica), in seconding the resolution, said that, when he first reached these shores, he received a report of the meeting held at Exeter hall, with a view to promote Christian union, and his first observation was, "I am sure there is something good about to begin in the Christian church; and he resolved to test the strength of union by making application for the admission of his children into the institutions at Walthamstow, that they might enjoy the same advantages as those of his honoured brethren, who were engaged in the same work as himself in different parts of the missionary field. His esteemed brother from the East Indies spoke of the influence of climate upon their children. He would give them an instance of it. In the year 1840, he had occasion, in the discharge of his missionary duties, to travel 150 miles from home, and he left his children in the enjoyment of full and perfect health, not expecting that anything would happen to interrupt that blessing. On his return, when he had reached within twenty miles of his home, he received an express stating that his eldest child was dangerously ill. He hastened home, and the first spectacle he saw was that dear child stretched out a corpse, and the first duty he had to perform was that of following it to the grave. These were reasons why a home should be provided for their children. The command was given to feed the lambs, as well as to take care of the sheep; and might it not be applied to the church taking care of the children of those who devoted their lives and energies to making known, in foreign lands, the savour of the Redeemer's grace? He trusted that the funds of the institution would so increase, that the committee would feel justified in putting their sons apprentices, so that they might be able to obtain a livelihood. Several other ministers, among whom were Messrs Lyon, Tidman, and Curwen, afterwards addressed the meeting. A collection was made at the door in aid of the funds.

YARDLEY HASTINGS.—On Tuesday, the 31st ult., two spacious and commodious school rooms, to accommodate 300 children, were opened, adjoining the chapel at Yardley Hastings. Mr George Clayton, of London, preached a suitable and impressive discourse in the afternoon; after which a large company took tea in the new school rooms. In the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel, at which Joseph Maitland, Esq., of the East India house, presided. The chairman stated he had now had the great gratification of labouring to promote and extend the blessings of religious education amongst the young for near forty years past, and was still concerned that the good cause should prosper. After other appropriate remarks, he called on Mr W. Todman, the pastor of the church, to give some account of the proceedings, &c., that led to the erection of the schools. The important subject of the "scrip-

tural education of the young" was then enforced on the attention of the numerous audience with much energy and eloquence, by the following ministers, Messrs Josiah Bull, A.M., J. Watson, tutor of Newport Pagnel college, J. Jukes of Bedford, and George Clayton. The cost of ground, erecting the schools, fitting up, and other incidental expenses, is likely to be £330; towards which it is hoped that £120 will be realized by Christmas, without a formal appeal to the public. Already one kind friend has given £20, and promises of further assistance if needful. Another friend has promised £10 per annum for three years.

SPETISBURY, DORSET.—Mr J. Basley, late of Cotton-end academy, commenced his labours at the above mentioned place, under the auspices of the Home Missionary society, on the first Sabbath in November.

WOODSIDE, FOREST OF DEAN.—The new baptist chapel at this place was opened for public worship, on Thursday, the 9th inst. Mr Jenkin Thomas, of Cheltenham, preached in the morning and evening, and Mr Joseph Hyatt, of Gloucester, officiated in the afternoon. The collections, including the contributions on the following Sabbath, amounted to £47; which, with £13 promised by a friend, will make the total proceeds of the opening services £60.

SALENDINE NOOK.—The new and enlarged baptist chapel, at Salendine Nook, was opened on Friday the 3rd, and on Sunday the 5th inst, when sermons were preached by Messrs Dowson, W. F. Burchell, J. Acworth, and W. Gray of Northampton. The collections amounted to the handsome sum of £300, which, together with previous subscriptions, will nearly defray the cost of erection, about £1,600.—*Leeds Mercury*.

TROWBRIDGE.—Mr Z. Clift, of Westbury Leigh, has accepted the invitation to become the pastor of the baptist church, of Crockerton, Wilts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION, CHELTENHAM.—The annual meeting of the Sunday School union took place on Tuesday week, at the Girl's Union School room, St. George's street; there was a large attendance. The reports from the several schools in connexion with the union were read, and speeches delivered by Messrs Tindall, Lewis, A. M. Browne, Wake, Davison of Cheltenham, J. Frost of Hungerford, and others. There appeared a decrease on the numbers of last year—the totals being this year, 2,114 children and 291 teachers; last year there were 2,136 children, and 303 teachers. The numbers at Highbury Sunday school had greatly increased; the greatest decrease observable was in connexion with Salem chapel. The others appeared to remain very stationary, but on the whole the reports were gratifying.—*Cheltenham Free Press*.

HYDE.—OPENING OF THE NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.—This neat and spacious chapel, capable of accommodating nine hundred and fifty hearers, and nearly three hundred Sunday scholars, was opened for divine worship on Wednesday, the 8th instant. In the afternoon the service was commenced by J. Clunie, LL.D., of Manchester, reading appropriate portions of scripture, and offering up solemn prayer; after which an eloquent and impressive sermon was delivered by Thomas Raffles, D.D., LL.D., of Liverpool. In the evening, after reading and prayer by Mr Calvert of Morley, an interesting and appropriate sermon was preached by Mr S. Luke of Chester. On the following Sabbath the opening services were continued, and three interesting sermons were delivered—in the morning by Mr R. Fletcher of Manchester, in the afternoon by Mr J. Sutcliffe, F.A.S., of Ashton-under-Lyne, and in the evening by Mr N. K. Pugsley of Stockport. And on Wednesday evening, November 15th, Mr James Parsons of York closed the series of interesting services by a powerful and deeply impressive sermon. The congregations at the various services were numerous and respectable, and the collections amounted to the handsome sum of £260.—*Manchester Times*.

MR ALEXANDER OF EDINBURGH.—On Wednesday evening a *soirée* in honour of Mr W. L. Alexander, minister of the independent chapel, Argyll square, took place in the saloon of the Royal hotel, Princes' street; Dr Paterson in the chair. Upwards of two hundred persons were present, including the following ministers:—Mr Wm Innes, Mr Jonathan Watson, Mr James Robertson, Newington; Mr John Watson, Musselburgh; Mr A. W. Knowles, Linlithgow; Mr D. Cullen, Leith; W. Alexander, Esq., Leith; John Gibson, Esq., junior, W.S.; John Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch, &c., &c. Messrs Watson and Knowles having addressed the assembly, the chairman then presented Mrs Alexander with a handsome gold watch and appendages, and Mr Alexander with a silver coffee-pot and stand, a salver and two cake baskets. The chairman then explained, that this presentation had originated in the delight experienced by the congregation at the resolution of Mr Alexander to remain as their pastor, notwithstanding the temptations which had been held out to him to remove to another sphere. These temptations Mr Alexander had nobly and disinterestedly rejected, and, without the slightest hint given him by his people that this sacrifice should be made up to him, had generously resolved to abide among a people who could appreciate his ministry, and who were benefited by it. This resolution having been intimated to the church, they had very nobly determined that he should be no loser by it; but even this did not satisfy some of the more ardent spirits in the congregation, who were desirous that, in addition, a memorial should be presented to him of the deep sense they entertained of his great disinterestedness; and now here it was. The Doctor concluded by requesting Mr Alex-

ander's acceptance of the memorial. Mr Alexander, senior, having returned thanks on behalf of his daughter-in-law, his son then addressed the assembly in an eloquent and touching speech, in which he cordially thanked the members of his church and congregation for this renewed instance of their attachment to him as their pastor. After other addresses the meeting separated.

BIRTHS.

Nov. 13, at York, the wife of Mr C. PAYTON, minister of the gospel, of a son.
Nov. 14, at Chesterfield, the lady of Mr W. BLANDY, minister of the gospel, of a son.
Nov. 14, at Bath street, Leamington, Mrs THOMAS HENRY THORNE, of a son.
Nov. 15, at Shirley cottage, Beecham Cliff, the wife of Mr J. M. STEPHENS, minister of York Street chapel, Bath, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Nov. 12, at the Baptist chapel, St George's road, Manchester, by Mr W. Gadsby, minister, Mr BENJAMIN EDWARD ROGERS, to Miss MARIA HOWARTH.
Nov. 13, at the Independent chapel, Shepton Mallet, Somersetshire, by the minister, Mr S. S. Wilson, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, to REBECCA FRANCE, both of Shepton.

Nov. 13, at the Independent chapel, Yeovil, by Mr E. James, Mr JAMES HOON, to Miss TAVERNER, both of Yeovil.
Nov. 14, at Salthouse Lane chapel, Hull, Mr JOHN LISTER of Epworth, grocer and druggist, to HARRIET, daughter of Capt. T. WALKER, of Hull.

Nov. 14, at 12, Middleby street, Edinburgh, by Mr W. L. Alexander, congregational minister, JOHN SMITH, Esq., writer, Falkirk, to ANN ELIZA, daughter of the late Walter BELL, Esq., Glasgow.

Nov. 14, at Square chapel, Halifax, Mr JOSEPH STEDD, linen draper, of that place, to Mrs FRANCES GREENWOOD, of Southowram.

Nov. 15, at the Sion chapel, Halifax, Mr SOLOMON INGHAM, to Miss ELIZA FARRAR, both of that place.
Nov. 16, at the Independent chapel, Chesham, in the presence of Mr James Dorrell, registrar, Mr ROBERT VERNON, of High Wycombe, to MARGARET, daughter of the late Mr Thomas LIBERTY, surveyor.

Nov. 16, at Zion chapel, Frome, Mr JOHN HILL, of Tiverton, near Bath, to Miss MARY ANN HARROLD, of Frome.

Nov. 16, at Argyll chapel, Bath, by Mr W. Jay, independent minister, Mr C. CLARK, printer, to LYDIA, eldest daughter of Mr James SALTER, Victoria nursery.

DEATHS.

Nov. 5, at Croft house, Wallingford, Berks, JOHN FIELD, Esq., alderman, for many years a member of the baptist church in that town.

Nov. 6, in the 80th year of his age, Mr WILLIAM WILLING, uncle of Mr Willing, of Catherine street, Devonport. Mr W. had long been connected with the baptist church at the Square.

Nov. 13, at Euston square, aged 39, after giving birth to a daughter, HARRIET, the beloved wife of Mr James SHOOLBRED, of Tottenham Court road and Euston square. The infant is doing well.

Nov. 14, at Romford, Essex, in the 48th year of his age, Lieut. GEORGE FABIAN, R.N., a gentleman widely known and esteemed for his long, able, and efficient advocacy of the cause of liberal education in connexion with the British and Foreign School society.

Nov. 14, at Penrose almshouse, Litchdon street, Barnstaple, Mr JOHN TODD, at the patriarchal age of 105, having lived in five reigns.

Nov. 15, at Paulton's square, Chelsea, EMILY, eldest daughter of the late Mr E. W. FORDHAM, of Barrington, Cambs, in the 21st year of her age.

Nov. 18, in her 68th year, the wife of Mr JOHN DOWMAN, Colchester, Essex.

Nov. 19, at Wandsworth, the infant daughter of Mr J. E. RICHARDS, minister of the gospel.

Nov. 21, at Stepney meeting, by Mr John Young, M.A., minister of Albion chapel, ROBERT DRYDEN, Esq., of George street, Bethnal Green, to Miss JANE ELIZABETH TURNBULL, of New Nelson street, Stepney.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Nov. 10.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the 6th and 7th William IV., cap. 85:—

Ebenezer, Bodwenn, Cornwall.
Independent chapel, Hockliffe, Bedfordshire.

BANKRUPTS.

BARLOW, THOMAS, Sheffield, grocer, Nov. 28, Dec. 19: solicitors, Mr Duncan, Chancery lane, London; Mr Ferrell, Sheffield, and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

BAILEY, THOMAS, of the Bell public-house, West Smithfield, licensed victualler, Nov. 25, Dec. 23: solicitors, Messrs Teesdale and Co., 31, Fenchurch street.

BOURNE, THOMAS, Liverpool, corn factor, Dec. 1, 22: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London, and Mr Frodsham, Liverpool.

COLLIER, RICHARD, Hythe, and Folkstone, Kent, draper, Nov. 24, Dec. 21: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street.

COLLINS, DANIEL, Bennett's place, Pollard's row, Bethnal green, silk manufacturer, Dec. 1, Jan. 5: solicitor, Mr Hudson, Bucklersbury.

CRISP, JOSEPH, Liverpool, and Liscard, Cheshire, auctioneer, Dec. 1, 22: solicitors, Messrs Maples and Co., 6, Frederick's place, Old Jewry, and Mr J. F. Fairclough, Liverpool.

HALE, ROBERT, Margate, bookseller, Nov. 24, Jan. 9: solicitor, Mr H. Berry, 4, Trafalgar square, London.

HEYWARD, WILLIAM, and JENNINGS, JOHN, Walbrook, City, commission agents, Nov. 24, Jan. 1: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street.

HUDSON, JAMES, and BROADBENT, JAMES, jun., Gale and Manchester, Lancashire, calico printers, Nov. 28, Dec. 28: solicitors, Messrs Atkinson and Saunders, Manchester, and Messrs Makinson and Sanders, Elm court, Middle Temple, London.

MILBANK, RICHARD TYLER, 8, Burwood place, Edgware road, surgeon, Dec. 1, Jan. 5: solicitor, Mr Braham, Chancery lane.

PARKES, SAMUEL, 7, Old Jewry, wine merchant, Nov. 29, Jan. 5: solicitor, Mr E. Guillaume, 26, Bucklersbury.

PIERCE, JOSEPH, of the Golden Lion, Dean street, Soho, licensed victualler, Nov. 27, Dec. 19: solicitor, Mr Atkinson, Chancery street.

PORTER, JOSEPH GEORGE, 3, University street, surgeon, Nov. 27, Dec. 19: solicitor, Mr Buchanan, 8, Basinghall street.

SPINK, THOMAS, Hillam, Yorkshire, farmer, Nov. 27, Dec. 20: solicitors, Mr W. M. Perfect, Pontefract, and Messrs Upton and Clapham, Leeds.

THORPE, THOMAS, now or late of Chertsey, and of Woking, Surrey, and of Feltham, plumber, Nov. 23, Dec. 21: solicitors, Messrs Allen and Nicol, Queen street, Cheapside.

WARD, JOHN, Nottingham, tailor, Nov. 27, Jan. 1: solicitors, Messrs Tyndall and Son, Birmingham, and Messrs Rowland and Hacon, White Lion court, London.

WESTMORE, ALEXANDER, West Derby, Lancashire, joiner, Nov. 30, Dec. 29: solicitors, Mr T. Toulmin, Liverpool, and Messrs Norris and Co., 19, Bartlett's buildings, Holborn, London.

WHEELDON, GEORGE, Dudley, Worcestershire, clothier, Nov. 27, Dec. 21: solicitor, Mr W. Fellowes, jun., Dudley.

WOOD, THOMAS HALL, Penton street, Pentonville, draper, Nov. 29, Jan. 5: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, 2, Friday street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BANKS, MAXWELL, Coupar-Angus, manufacturer, Nov. 23, Dec. 14.

BLACK, JOHN, Kirkaldy, builder, Nov. 24, Dec. 15.

CRAWFORD, ROBERT, Bathgate, lime burner, Nov. 23, Dec. 14.

JOLLIE, WILLIAM, Leslie, manufacturer, Nov. 23, Dec. 14.

STEWART, JAMES, Dundee, ship owner, Nov. 23, Dec. 27.

WILLIAMSON, JOHN, Dalpeddar, near Sanquhar, dealer in horses, Nov. 23, Dec. 14.

Tuesday, Nov. 22nd.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the 6th and 7th William IV., cap. 85:—

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Colchester, Essex.

Brinarian chapel, Brinarian, Pembrokeshire.

Wesleyan Methodist chapel, South Shields, Durham.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

DAVIES, RICHARD, and DAVIES, JOHN, Chiswell street, drapers.

BANKRUPTS.

BAKE, WOODLAND, JOHN, Bristol, currier, December 5, January 2: solicitors, Mr Brook Smith, Bristol, and Messrs Clarke and Co., Lincoln's inn, London.

BALL, JOHN, 20, St George's place, Hyde Park corner, tailor, December 1, January 9: solicitor, Mr Haddan, Lime street square.

BEST, EDWARD PAYNE, Cutched friars, City, and Croomhill, Greenwich, wine merchant, Dec. 9, Jan. 12: solicitor, Mr James Peache, 17, Salisbury square, Fleet street.

BLUNDEN, RICHARD, Alton, Hampshire, plumber, December 1, January 2: solicitors, Messrs Johnson and Co., Temple, agents for Messrs Cole and Co., Basingstoke.

COLSON, JUKES, and PHILIPS, HARRY, 12, Clement's lane, City, shipping ironmongers, December 1, January 10: solicitor, Mr Adecock, 3, Cophall buildings.

DIAMOND, HUGH WELCH, 59, Frith street, Westminster, surgeon, December 1, January 1: solicitor, Mr Protheroe, Furnival's inn.

DEWSON, CHARLES FREDRICK, Birmingham, victualer, Dec. 1, Jan. 5: solicitor, Mr J. Bartlett, Birmingham.

FISHER, HENRY HOLMES, 36, Bury street, and 37, Duke street, St James's, tailor, December 1, January 12: solicitors, Messrs Cock and Sanders, 1, New inn, Strand.

HARRIS, HENRY, Lanaravon, near Newport, Monmouthshire, shoemaker, December 7, January 3: solicitor, Mr Charles Harris.

HINXMAN, JOHN DONNIGER, 29, Harley street, Cavendish square, wine merchant, Dec. 1, Jan. 12: solicitor, Mr Watts, Bedford row.

JONES, SAMUEL, 78, Cheapside, jeweler, December 5, January 10: solicitor, Mr E. K. Randall, 23, Bircham lane.

KIMBER, THOMAS, North Cerney, Gloucestershire, farmer, Dec. 6, Jan. 2: solicitors, Messrs Sewell and Newmarch, Cirencester.

LEEDER, CULLUM DADE, Billingford, Norfolk, cattle dealer, Dec. 9, Jan. 12: solicitors, Messrs Clarke and Co., Lincoln's inn fields, and Mr Frederic Charles Taylor, Norwich.

MAY, JOHN, Pickwick, Wiltshire, victualer, Dec. 5, Jan. 3: solicitors, Messrs Goldney and Fellowes, Chippenham.

NEWMAN, ARTHUR ATHERLEY, High street, Whitechapel, saddler, December 1, January 9: solicitors, Messrs Weir and Smith, Coopers' hall.

RAPHAEL, MOSES, and NATHAN, AARON, Kingston-upon-Hull, silversmiths, Dec. 2, 21: solicitors, Messrs Peacock and Wilkin, Bartholomew close, London; and Mr Bond, Leeds.

SHARLAND, SAMUEL THOMAS, late of Frome Selwood, Somersetshire, linen draper, Dec. 5, Jan. 2: solicitor, Mr H. Miller, Frome.

WHITE, GEORGE ZACHARIAH, Northam road, Hampshire, stone mason, December 1, January 5: solicitors, Messrs Gem and Co., Lincoln's inn fields.

WINTLE, JOHN MARRIOTT, 54, Drury lane, silversmith, Dec. 1, Jan. 2: solicitor, Mr Archer, Harper street, Red Lion square.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BLAIN, JAMES HAMILTON, Dundee, banker, Nov. 29, Dec. 20.

BAILLIE and BLACK, Brechin, manufacturers, Nov. 27, Dec. 16.

FORREST, JAMES, Hyndford, near Lanark, farmer, Nov. 29, Dec. 20.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR NOV. 17.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	52s. 1d.	Wheat	50s. 11d.
Barley	32 5	Barley	30 11
Oats	18 9	Oats	17 11
Rye	29 3	Rye	29 10
Beans	32 2	Beans	30 11
Peas	34 0	Peas	33 0

SEEDS.

There is an inquiry for new cloverseed, of which scarcely any has hitherto appeared, but there is very little passing in old, and prices remain unaltered. In trefoil, also, there is no variation. For canaryseed we experienced a slightly improved demand, at fully as high prices as those current on this day's eve. Brown mustardseed maintained the late improvement.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt
English, sowing	48s. to 58s.	English, red	46s. to 65s.
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	—
Ditto, crushing	35 .. 40	Flemish, pale	44 .. 52
Medit. & Odessa	39 .. 41	Ditto, fine	54 .. 75
Hempseed, small	35 .. 38	New Hamb., red	—
Large	36 .. 38	Ditto, fine	—
Canary, new	62 .. 64	Old Hamb., red	42 .. 52
Extra	— .. 67	Ditto, fine	50 .. 75
Caraway, old	— .. 53	French, red	42 .. 56
New	48 .. 53	Ditto, white	— .. 56
Ryegrass, English	— .. —	Coriander	15 .. 20
Scotch	— .. —	Old	— .. —
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	12 .. 15	Eng. new	25l. to 26l.
White	8 .. 9	Linsed cakes	— .. —
Trefoil	18 .. 30	English	9l. 10s. to 10l. 0s.
Old	14 .. 22	Foreign	5l. to 6l. 10s.
Tares, new	5 .. 5 3	Rapeseed cakes	5l. 5s. to 5l. 10s.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Nov. 20.

The hop market has been improving since the official return of the duty was published, and a further rise is anticipated, as the yield is shown to be less than many anticipated. We are told that nearly three-fourths of this year's hops have already gone out of the growers' hands, and it is well known that the stocks of former years are very limited indeed; there is consequently nothing to fall back upon until next crop. We give the current quotations at the advance since our last: viz., Pockets, 1843—Sussex, 112s. to 118s.; Wealds, 116s. to 120s.; ditto choice, 124s. to 130s.; Mid Kents, 140s. to 180s.; East Kents, 140s. to 210s.; Farnhams, 140s. to 210s.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Nov. 20.

During the past week the butter market ruled very dull, and there was merely a small amount of business transacted, at a reduction of 1s. to 2s. per cwt from previous quotations. Foreign was in slow sale. Friesland, 86s. to 90s.; Kiel, 88s. to 92s. per cwt. For bacon there was less demand; the trade operated with more caution, and bought sparingly as well landed as on board; prices nominally as last quoted. Bale middles in moderate sale at 36s. to 38s. landed; tierces, 37s. to 41s., as in size, quality, and mildness of cure. Ham as previously reported. Lard sold rather better, but on easier terms.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Nov. 20.

The beef trade was in a very sluggish state, and the prices declined quite 2d. per 8lbs., and much difficulty was experienced in effecting a clearance. The number of sheep amounted to a full average, but there was a scarcity of really prime old Downs amongst them. That description sold at last Monday's quotations, but all other breeds were quite 2d. per 8lbs. lower. Calves came rather freely to hand, while the veal trade ruled dull at a depression of 2d. per 8lbs. Prime small porkers were in demand, but all other kinds of pigs were a mere drug.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.	Veal	2s. 10d. to 3s. 10d.
Mutton	2 8 .. 4 4	Pork	3 0 .. 3 10

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	506 ..	3,620 ..	233 ..
Monday	3,612 ..	27,970 ..	420 ..

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Nov. 20.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.		Inf. Mutton	2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d.
Superior Beef	2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d.	Mid. ditto	3 0 .. 3 6
Middling	2 8 .. 2 10	Prime ditto	3 8 .. 4 0
Prime large	10 .. 3 2	Veal	3 0 .. 3 10
Prime small	3 4 .. 3 6	Small Pork	3 6 .. 3 10
Large Pork	2 8 .. 3 4		

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Nov. 20.

The arrivals to this market during the past week have been but moderate, amounting to 2140 tons: viz., from Yorkshire, 715 tons; Scotland, 312 tons; Devons, 430 tons; Kent and Essex, 395 tons; Jersey and Guernsey, 198; Wisbeach, 90 tons. York reds .. per ton 50s. to 70s. Guernsey whites .. 40s. to 45s. Devon do .. 55 .. 60 Kent and Essex do 45 .. 50 Scotch do .. 55 .. 60 Wisbeach .. 40 .. 45

COTTON.

A fair amount of business has been done in cotton; but in consequence of advices that the crops had suffered severely, the market on Monday became very animated, and fully 10,000 bales were disposed of at an improvement of 1d. per lb. The favourable change was, however, of short duration; as the accounts which arrived on Tuesday morning, though in some degree contradictory, were by no means confirmatory of those previously received. The trade since has been very dull, and prices have receded. A public sale of sea Islands, brought forward this day, passed off heavily at somewhat lower prices, and only a very small proportion were sold. Long-stapled cotton of all kinds is rather heavy, with some inclination downwards. 33,580 bales have met with buyers this week. Speculators have taken 9700 American, 1200 Surat, and 600 Egyptian.

WOOL.

There has been a limited business doing in all kinds of combing wools, at full quotations, and the wool market has a firm aspect for the future. The demand is good for blanket and low clothing wools, and prices have an upward tendency.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Nov. 18.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow	60s. to 70s.	New Clover Hay	70s. to 90s.
New ditto	50 .. 70	Old ditto	80 .. 100
Useful old ditto	78 .. 75	Oat Straw	26 .. 28
Fine Upland do	76 .. 80	Wheat Straw	28 .. 30

COAL EXCHANGE, Nov. 20.

Stewart's, 2ls. 3d.; Hetton's, 2ls. 3d.; Lambton's, 2ls. 3d.; Hartlepool's, 2ls. 3d.; Bradlyill's Hetton's, 2ls. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 136.

GROCERIES Tuesday, Nov. 21.

TEA.—Of 4000 packages which were offered by public auction, only about 1600 were sold at a trifling decline in the last public sale's prices. The following are the quotations:—Congou, 113d. to 1s. 4d.; Hyson, 2s. 4d.; Hyson Twankay, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.; Peckoe, 1s. 6d.

COFFEE.—The public sales consisted only of 180 bags of Ceylon, which were taken in at 6ds. per cwt, being 1s. above the market value. Generally speaking, the market is heavy and has a downward tendency.

SUGAR.—125 hds. Barbadoes sold in auction at 63s. to 65s. The trade bought, besides this parcel, above 300 hds and tierces. Refined goods were not much inquired for. Standard lumps were offered at 73s. 6d. per cwt; brown grocery, 71s. to 73s. 6d. per cwt.

Advertisements.

J. PIDDOCK, General and Furnishing IRON-MONGER, BURLEM, Staffordshire Potteries, has a Vacancy for a respectable APPRENTICE.

Respectable references given and required.

CHAPEL TO LET, at GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.

The above Chapel is capable of accommodating 750 persons, and is situated in the principal street of the town, surrounded by a dense population.

Apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr PAGE, Grocer, South Quay, Yarmouth.

ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE SECOND LECTURE on ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS of CHRISTIANITY will be delivered on TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, NOVEMBER 28, at the BOROUGH ROAD CHAPEL, SOUTHWARK, by the Rev. DR BENNETT.

Subject—The History of Ecclesiastical Establishments.

To commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

AT the SECOND MONTHLY MEETING of the MEMBERS of this ASSOCIATION, held at the KING'S HEAD, POULTRY, on TUESDAY EVENING, the 14th of NOVEMBER, 1843, the following Resolution was moved by Mr CHARLES REED, seconded by Mr TEMPLETON, and carried unanimously:

"That this Association begs to express its acknowledgments to the Earl of Radnor, for his munificent donation to its funds; and is gratified to find so distinguished a member of the British Legislature thus spontaneously coming forward to lend the weight of his name and influence in the promotion of voluntary Christianity."

STAFFORD ALLEN, Chairman.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, WELSHPOOL, MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

THE CHURCH and CONGREGATION meeting in the above CHAPEL, having forwarded Circulars to several hundred Churches in England and Wales, containing a statement of their painfully embarrassed circumstances, and asking only One Penny from every friend of the Redeemer's kingdom, hereby urgently implore the kind attention of those Churches to that statement, and respectfully beg that they will not refuse the trifling aid thus, from the deepest necessity, sought.

Up to this time, only from twenty to thirty Churches have responded to our appeal. We confidently trust that others will follow; if not, we must, with bleeding hearts, and weeping eyes, and blighted hopes, give up the cause. We again pray our brethren to sacrifice One Penny for our relief, and thus save a promising interest from certain and inevitable abandonment.

Signed, on behalf of the Church,

J. DREW, Pastor.

The case is strongly recommended by the Rev. Messrs J. Williams, Newtown; M. Kent, Shrewsbury; T. and G. Thomas, Pontypool Academy; B. Price, M.A., Tredegar; W. Keay, Wellington; G. Sayce, Wrexham; and W. Watkins, Llanfair. Subscriptions may be sent either to Mr Kent, Mr Drew, or Mr R. Ware, watch maker, Welshpool.

Nov. 3, 1843.

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ALMANACKS.

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